


1934

### Discipline, Oregon Yearly Meeting 1934

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# **DISCIPLINE**

**Oregon Yearly Meeting**

**1934**



CONSTITUTION  
AND  
DISCIPLINE  
FOR  
OREGON YEARLY MEETING  
OF  
FRIENDS CHURCH

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ADOPTED JUNE 13, 1934



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CONSTITUTION AND DISCIPLINE  
of

OREGON YEARLY MEETING OF  
THE FRIENDS CHURCH

Adopted by Oregon Yearly Meeting, June 13, 1934

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HISTORICAL STATEMENT

The Society of Friends, generally called Quakers, arose in England about the middle of the seventeenth century. George Fox began his ministry in 1647. The position of the Friends was the logical conclusion of the Protestant Reformation, and marked the culmination in the development of doctrine which had been advancing by irregular stages for more than a century. They proclaimed the truth that man's salvation is a personal matter between his own soul and God, and does not depend upon the intervention of the Church in any of its offices, or by any of its officers, in the administration of any rite, ordinance or ceremony whatever. They accepted the doctrines of the Apostolic Age of the Church, and distinctively emphasized the truth that the Holy Spirit enlightens every soul to reveal its condition and make the individual feel the need of a Saviour. They emphasized the further truth that Christ's promise to plant a new life in the soul and abide there to give it light, to feed it with the bread of life and to lead it into all truth, had become a practical reality, to be known and experi-



enced by every true believer. They proclaimed that the true baptism is that of Christ Himself, who baptizes His people with the Holy Spirit, and that the true communion is the spiritual partaking of the body and blood of Jesus Christ by faith, and that there is no form or degree of sacerdotalism in the Christian Church.

This clear and vigorous message as to the freedom and the spirituality of the Gospel attracted multitudes of people who had sought the truth in the endless disputations of the time. The Society was organized with a great number of adherents. They took the title of Society because it was considered that the term Church belonged to the whole body of Christ, and that no portion of that body had a right to assume to itself a name that implied any exclusion of others. The claims of the Established Church made this, in a measure, necessary. The name Friends was taken in accordance with the declaration of the Master: "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." For a time the members called themselves "The Friends of Truth."

The distinguishing doctrines of Friends have from the beginning led them into lines of service that have resulted in great good to mankind. Because they would not comply with unjust requirements they were imprisoned in great numbers in England until their quiet endurance of oppression aroused the conscience of the nation, and this resulted in obtaining many of the blessings of civil and religious liberty which all now enjoy. They were the consistent and unyielding opponents of human slavery when they stood almost alone in their opposition to it. They have opposed war

as violating the principles of Christianity, as well as the precepts of its Founder, and as bringing untold evils upon mankind, and they have always advocated peaceable methods of settling disputes between nations. They have steadily advocated justice toward the North American Indian, and have labored independently and as the representatives of government, for his civilization and Christianization. They believe that oaths were forbidden by Christ, and they have obtained in all English-speaking countries the privilege of affirmation. They have advocated, and in many cases inaugurated, prison reform, which has greatly relieved the suffering of convicts. They have been among the leaders in the rational and Christian treatment of the insane; and, in many other ways, have engaged in the service they felt laid upon them for the good of humanity.

Friends came to America soon after the body arose in England. New England Yearly Meeting was established in 1671, or earlier; Baltimore in 1672; Virginia in 1673, and joined to Baltimore in 1845; Philadelphia in 1681; New York in 1695, by New England; North Carolina in 1698; Ohio in 1813, by Baltimore; Indiana in 1821, by Ohio; Western in 1858, by Indiana; Iowa in 1863, by Indiana; Canada in 1867, by New York; Kansas in 1872, by Indiana; Wilmington in 1892, by Indiana; Oregon in 1893, by Iowa; California in 1895, by Iowa; Nebraska in 1907 by Iowa.

Conferences to consider special situations were held in Philadelphia in 1829, and in Baltimore in 1849.

The first General Conference of the Yearly Meetings was held at Richmond, Indiana, in 1887, and was attended by delegates from London and Dublin



Yearly Meetings, and from all those on the American continent, except that of Philadelphia, which was unofficially represented. It was afterwards decided to hold similar conferences of the American Yearly Meetings once in five years. They have been held at Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1892 and 1897. At the latter conference it was felt that a closer union of the Yearly Meetings and a uniform discipline would be desirable. A committee was appointed in furtherance of this purpose and this Constitution and Discipline was prepared.

It has been regularly adopted by the Yearly Meetings of New England, Wilmington, Indiana and Kansas in 1900; by California, New York, Western and Baltimore in 1901, and by Oregon, North Carolina and Iowa in 1902. In 1926 Oregon Yearly Meeting withdrew from the organic union of the Five Years Meeting.

## PART I.

### THE CHURCH AND ITS DENOMINATIONS

#### CHAPTER I.

##### SECTION 1—THE CHURCH.

1. The Church of Jesus Christ is composed of those persons who, through repentance of their sins and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, have been born into His Kingdom by the Holy Spirit. By the revelation of the Holy Spirit they look to Christ as their Prophet, Priest and King, and, by the Spirit's baptism and power, are enabled to resist temptation and to live in obedience to God's holy will.

2. A Christian denomination is an organization composed of those who hold similar views of the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and maintain certain practices based upon these teachings, and who voluntarily associate themselves for joint participation in worship, for fellowship and mutual help, and for united effort in the promotion of truth and its righteousness. The denomination of The Friends is such a Christian body.

3. Each denominational body has its own system of government, and rules for the transaction of its business and for individual observance by its members.



## CHAPTER II.

## SECTION I.

## ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

The vital principle of the Christian faith is the truth that man's salvation and higher life are personal matters between the individual soul and God.

Salvation is deliverance from sin and the possession of spiritual life. This comes through a personal faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior, who, through his love and sacrifice, draws us to Him.

Conviction for sin is awakened by the operation of the Holy Spirit causing the soul to feel its need of reconciliation with God. When Christ is seen as the only hope of salvation, and a man yields to Him, he is brought into newness of life, and realizes that his sonship to God has become an actual reality. This transformation is wrought, without the necessary agency of any human priest, or ordinance, or ceremony whatsoever. A changed nature and life bear witness to this new relation to Him.

The whole spiritual life grows out of the soul's relation to God and its cooperation with Him, not from any outward or traditional observances.

Christ Himself baptizes the surrendered soul with the Holy Spirit, enduing it with power, bestowing gifts for service. This is an efficient baptism, a direct incoming of divine power for the transformation and control of the whole man. Christ Himself is the Spiritual bread which nourishes the soul, and He thus enters into and becomes a part of the being of those who partake of Him. This participation with

Christ and apprehension of Him become the goal of life for the Christian. Those who thus enter into oneness with Him become also joined in living union with each other as members of one body.

Both worship and Christian fellowship spring out of this immediate relation of believing souls with their Lord.

The Holy Scriptures were given by inspiration of God and are the divinely authorized record of the doctrines which Christians are bound to accept, and of the moral principles which are to regulate their lives and actions. In them, as interpreted and unfolded by the Holy Spirit, is an ever fresh and un-failing source of spiritual truth for the proper guidance of life and practice.

The doctrines of the apostolic days are held by the Friends as essentials of Christianity. The Fatherhood of God, the Deity and humanity of the Son; the gift of the Holy Spirit; the atonement through Jesus Christ by which men are reconciled to God; the Resurrection; the Highpriesthood of Christ, and the individual priesthood of believers, are most precious truths, to be held, not as traditional dogmas, but as vital, life-giving realities.

The sinful condition of man and his proneness to yield to temptation, the world's absolute need of a Savior, and the cleansing from sin in forgiveness and sanctification through the blood of Jesus Christ, are unceasing incentives to all who believe to become laborers together with God in extending His kingdom. By this high calling the Friends are pledged to the proclamation of the truth wherever the Spirit leads, both in home and foreign fields.



The indwelling Spirit guides and controls the surrendered life, and the Christian's constant and supreme business is obedience to Him. But while the importance of individual guidance and obedience is thus emphasized, this fact gives no ground for license; the sanctified conclusions of the Church are above the judgment of a single individual.

The Friends find no scriptural evidence or authority for any form or degree of sacerdotalism in the Christian Church, or for the establishment of any ordinance or ceremonial rite for perpetual observance. The teachings of Jesus Christ concerning the spiritual nature of religion, the impossibility of promoting the spiritual life by the ceremonial application of material things, the fact that faith in Jesus Christ Himself is all-sufficient, the purpose of His life, death, resurrection and ascension, and His presence in the believer's heart, virtually destroy every ceremonial system and point the soul to the only satisfying source of spiritual life and power.

With faith in the wisdom of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and believing that it is His purpose to make His Church on earth a power for righteousness and truth, the Friends labor for the alleviation of human suffering; for the intellectual, moral and spiritual elevation of mankind; and for purified and exalted citizenship. The Friends believe war to be incompatible with Christianity, and seek to promote peaceful methods for the settlement of all the differences between nations and between men.

It is an essential part of the faith that a man should be in truth what he professes in word, and the underlying principle of life and action for individuals, and

also for society, is transformation through the power of God and implicit obedience to His revealed will.

For explicit and more extended statements of belief, reference is made to those officially put forth at various times by the Friends, especially to the letter of George Fox to the Governor of Barbadoes in 1671, and to the Declaration of Faith issued by the Richmond Conference in 1887.



## SECTION 2.

EXTRACT FROM GEORGE FOX'S LETTER  
TO THE GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS,  
1671.

We do own and believe in God, the only wise, omnipotent, and everlasting God, the Creator of all things both in heaven and on earth, and the Preserver of all that He hath made; who is God over all, blessed forever; to whom be all honor and glory, dominion, praise and thanksgiving, both now and forevermore.

And we own and believe in Jesus Christ, His beloved and only-begotten Son, in whom He is well pleased; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary; in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins; who is the express image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature, by whom were all things created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him. And we do own and believe that He was made a sacrifice for sin, who knew no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; that He was crucified for us in the flesh, without the gates of Jerusalem; and that He was buried, and rose again the third day by the power of His Father, for our justification; and that He ascended up into heaven, and now sitteth at the right hand of God. This Jesus, who was the foundation of the holy prophets and apostles, is our foundation; and we believe that there is no other foundation to be laid than that which is laid, even Christ Jesus; who tasted death for every man, shed

His blood for all men and is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world according as John the Baptist testified of Him, when he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29.) We believe that He alone is our Redeemer and Saviour, even the captain of our salvation, who saves us from sin, as well as from hell and the wrath to come, and destroys the devil and his works; he is the Seed of the woman that bruises the serpent's head, to wit, Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. He is (as the Scriptures of truth say of Him) our wisdom and righteousness, justification, and redemption; neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we may be saved. It is He alone who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls: He is our Prophet, whom Moses long since testified of, saying, "A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you; and it shall come to pass, that every soul that will not hear that prophet shall be destroyed from among the people." (Acts 3:22, 23.)

He it is that is now come, "and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true." He rules in our hearts by His law of love and of life, and makes us free from the law of sin and death. We have no life, but of Him; for He is the quickening Spirit, the second Adam, the Lord from heaven, by whose blood we are cleansed, and our consciences sprinkled from dead works, to serve the living God. He is our Mediator, that makes peace and reconcilia-



tion between God offended and us offending; He being the Oath of God, the new covenant of light, life, grace and peace; the author and finisher of our faith. This Lord Jesus Christ, the heavenly man, the Emmanuel, God with us, we all own and believe in; He whom the high-priest raged against and said, He had spoken blasphemy; whom the priests and elders of the Jews took counsel together against and put to death; the same whom Judas betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, which the priests gave him as a reward for his treason; who also gave large money to the soldiers to broach a horrible lie, namely, "That his disciples came and stole him away by night whilst they slept." After He was arisen from the dead, the history of the acts of the apostles sets forth how the chief priests and elders persecuted the disciples of this Jesus, for preaching Christ and His resurrection. This, we say, is that Lord Jesus Christ, whom we own to be our life and salvation.

Concerning the Holy Scriptures, we do believe that they were given forth by the Holy Spirit of God, through the holy men of God, who, as the Scripture itself declares, (2 Pet. 1:21,) spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. We believe they are to be read, believed, and fulfilled; (He that fulfills them is Christ), and they are "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works," (2 Tim. 3:15); and are able to make wise unto salvation, "through faith in Christ Jesus."

## SECTION 3.

DECLARATION OF FAITH ISSUED BY THE  
RICHMOND CONFERENCE IN 1887

(N. B. It should be understood that the quotations from Scripture are made from the Authorized Version unless stated to be from the Revised Version.)

It is under a deep sense of what we owe to Him who has loved us that we feel called upon to offer a declaration of those fundamental doctrines of Christian truth that have always been professed by our branch of the Church of Christ.

## OF GOD

We believe in one holy, (Isa. vi. 3, lvii. 15.) almighty, (Gen. xvii. 1.) all-wise, (Rom. xi. 33, xvi. 27.) and everlasting, (Ps. xc. 1, 2.) God, the Father, (Matt. xi. 25-27.) the Creator (Gen. i. 1.) and preserver (Job vii. 20.) of all things; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, by whom all things were made, (John i. 3.) and by whom all things consist; (Col. i. 17.) and in one Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, (John xv. 26, xvi. 7.) the Reprover (John xvi. 8.) of the world, the Witness for Christ, (John xv. 26) and the Teacher, (John xiv. 26.) Guide, (John xvi. 13.) and Sanctifier (II Thes. ii. 13.) of the people of God; and that these three are one in the eternal Godhead; (Matt. xxviii. 19, John x. 30, xvii. 21.) to whom be honor, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen.

## THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

It is with reverence and thanksgiving that we profess



our unwavering allegiance to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him. (John i. 18.) In Him was life, (John i. 4.) and the life was the light of men. (John i. 4.) He is the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world; (John i. 9.) through whom the light of truth in all ages has proceeded from the Father of lights. (James i. 17.) He is the eternal Word (John i. 1.) who was with God and was God, revealing Himself in infinite wisdom and love, both as man's Creator (Col. i. 13-16) and Redeemer; (Col. i. 14.) for by Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible. Conceived of the Holy Ghost (Matt. i. 20.) born of the virgin Mary, (Matt. i. 23-25, Luke i. 35.) the word was made flesh, (John i. 14.) and dwelt amongst men. He came in the fullness (Gal. iv. 4.) of the appointed time, being verily foreordained before the foundation of the world (I. Peter i. 20.) that He might fulfill (Isa. xi. 1-5, Isa. lii. 13-15.) the eternal counsel of the righteousness and love of God for the redemption of man. (Isa. liii.) In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (Col. ii:9.) Though He was rich, yet, for our sakes, He became poor, veiling in the form of a servant (Phil. ii. 7.) the brightness of His glory, that, through Him the kindness and love of God (Titus iii. 4.) toward man might appear in a manner every way suited to our wants and finite capacities. He went about doing good; (Acts x. 38.) for us He endured (Isa. liii. 4, Luke xii. 50, Luke xix. 41, xxii. 44.) sorrow, hunger, thirst, weariness, (John iv. 6.) pain, unutterable

anguish (Luke xxii. 43, 44.) of body and of soul, being in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Heb. iv. 15.) Thus humbling Himself that we might be exalted, He emphatically recognized the duties and the sufferings of humanity as among the means whereby, through the obedience of faith, we are to be disciplined for heaven, sanctifying them to us, by Himself performing and enduring them, leaving us the one perfect example (I. Peter ii. 21.) of all righteousness (Matt. iii. 15.) in self-sacrificing love.

But not only in these blessed relations must the Lord Jesus be ever precious to His people. In Him is revealed as true God and perfect man, (Eph. iv. 13.) a Redeemer, at once able to suffer and almighty to save. He became obedient (Phil. ii. 8.) unto death, even the death of the cross, and is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world; (I John ii. 2.) in whom we have redemption through His blood, (Eph. i. 7.) the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace. It is our joy to confess that the remission of sins which any partake of is only in and by virtue of His most satisfactory sacrifice and not otherwise. (Barclay's Apology, Propos. v. and vi. par. 15, p. 141.) He was buried and rose again the third day (I Cor. xv. 4.) according to the Scriptures, becoming the first fruits (I Cor. xv. 23.) of them that sleep, and having shown Himself alive after His passion, by many infallible proofs, (Acts i. 3.) He ascended into heaven, and hath sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, now to appear in the presence of God for us. (Heb. i. 3, ix. 24.) With the apostles who beheld His ascension, we rest in the assurance of the angelic mes-



sengers, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts i. 11, and see v. 7.) With the apostle John, we would desire to unite in the words, "Amen; even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. xxii. 20.) And now, whilst thus watching and waiting, we rejoice to believe that He is our King and Savior. He is the one Mediator of the new and everlasting covenant, (1 Tim. i. 5, Heb. ix. 15.) who makes peace and reconciliation between God offended and man offending; (George Fox's Epistle to the Governor of Barbadoes.) the great High Priest whose priesthood is unchangeable. (Heb. iv. 14, vii. 24.) He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him. seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. (Heb. vii. 25.) All power is given unto Him in heaven and in earth. (Matt. xxviii. 18.) By Him the world shall be judged in righteousness; (Acts xvii. 31.) for the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son, that all men should honor the Son even as they honor the Father. (John v. 22, 23.) All that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of judgment. (John v. 28, 29 R. V.)

We reverently confess and believe that divine honor and worship are due to the Son of God, and that He is in true faith to be prayed unto, and His name to be called upon, as the Primitive Christians did because of the glorious oneness of the Father and the Son; and that we cannot acceptably offer prayers and praises to God, nor receive from Him a gracious answer or

blessing, but in and through his dear Son. (Declaration of 1693, in Sewell's Hist., vol. II., 379.)

We would, with humble thanksgiving, bear an especial testimony to our Lord's perpetual dominion and power in His church. Through Him the redeemed in all generations have derived their light, their forgiveness, and their joy. All are members of this church, by whatsoever name they may be called among men, who have been baptized by the one Spirit into the one body; who are builded as living stones upon Christ, the Eternal Foundation, and are united in faith and love in that fellowship which is with the Father and with the Son. Of this church the Lord Jesus Christ is the alone Head. (Eph. i. 22.) All its true members are made one in Him. They have washed their robes and made them white in His precious blood, (Rev. vii. 14.) and He has made them priests unto God and His Father. (Rev. i. 6.) He dwells in their hearts by faith, and gives them of His peace. His will is their law, and in Him they enjoy the true liberty, a freedom from the bondage of sin.

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is, in the unity of the eternal Godhead, one with the Father and with the Son. (Matt. xxviii. 19, II. Cor. xiii. 14.) He is the comforter "Whom," saith Christ, "the Father will send in my name." (John xiv. 26.) He convinces the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. (John xvi. 8.) He testifies of and glorifies Jesus. (John xvi. 14.) It is the Holy Spirit who makes the evil manifest. He quickens them that are dead in trespasses and sins, and opens the inward eye to behold the Lamb of God that



taketh away the sin of the world. (Eph. ii. 1.) Coming in the name and with the authority of the risen and ascended Savior, He is the precious pledge of the continued love and care of our exalted King. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them, as a realized possession, to the believing soul. (John xvi. 14.) Dwelling in the hearts of believers, (John xiv. 17.) He opens their understandings that they may understand the Scriptures, and becomes, to the humbled and surrendered heart, the Guide, Comforter, Support and Sanctifier.

We believe that the essential qualification for the Lord's service is bestowed upon His children through the reception of and baptism with the Holy Ghost. This Holy Spirit is the seal of reconciliation to the believer in Jesus, (Eph. i. 13, 14.) the witness to his adoption into the family of the redeemed; (Rom. viii. 15, 16.) the earnest and the foretaste of the full communion and perfect joy which are reserved for them that endure unto the end.

We own no principle of spiritual light, life or holiness, inherent by nature in the mind or heart of man. We believe in no principle of spiritual light, life or holiness, but the influence of the Holy Spirit of God, bestowed on mankind, in various measures and degrees, through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is the capacity to receive this blessed influence, which, in an especial manner, gives man pre-eminence above the beasts that perish; which distinguishes him, in every nation and in every clime, as an object of the redeeming love of God; as a being not only intelligent but responsible; for whom the message of salvation through our crucified Redeemer is, under all possible circumstances, de-

signed to be a joyful sound. The Holy Spirit must ever be distinguished, both from the conscience which He enlightens, and from the natural faculty of reason, which when unsubjected to His Holy influence, is, in the things of God, very foolishness. As the eye is to the body, so is the conscience to our inner being, the organ by which we see; and, as both light and life are essential to the eye, so conscience, as the inward eye, cannot see aright, without the quickening and illumination of the Spirit of God. One with the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit can never disown or dishonor our once crucified and now risen and glorified Redeemer. We disavow all professed illumination or spirituality that is divorced from faith in Jesus Christ of Nazareth, crucified for us without the gates of Jerusalem.

### THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

It has ever been, and still is, the belief of the Society of Friends that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God; that, therefore, there can be no appeal from them to any other authority whatsoever; that they are able to make wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Jesus Christ. "These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." (John xx. 31.) The Scriptures are the only divinely authorized record of the doctrines which we are bound, as Christians, to accept, and of the moral principles which are to regulate our actions. No one can be required to believe, as an article of faith, any doctrine which is not contained in them; and whatsoever any



one says or does, contrary to the Scriptures, though under profession of the immediate guidance of the Holy Spirit, must be reckoned and accounted a mere delusion. To the Christian, the Old Testament comes with the solemn and repeated attestation of his Lord. It is to be read in the light and completeness of the New; thus will its meaning be unveiled, and the humble disciple will be taught to discern the unity and mutual adaptation of the whole, and the many-sidedness and harmony of its testimony to Christ. The great Inspirer of Scripture is ever its true Interpreter. He performs this office in condescending love, not by superseding our understandings, but by renewing and enlightening them. Where Christ presides, idle speculation is hushed; His doctrine is learned in the doing of His will, and all knowledge ripens into a deeper and richer experience of His truth and love.

### MAN'S CREATION AND FALL

It pleased God, in His wisdom and goodness, to create man out of the dust of the earth, and to breathe into his nostrils the breath of life, so that man became a living soul; formed after the image and likeness of God, capable of fulfilling the divine law, and of holding communion with his Maker. (Gen. ii. 7, i. 26, 27.) Being free to obey, or to disobey, he fell into transgression, through unbelief, under the temptation of Satan, (Gen. iii. 1-7.) and, thereby, lost that spiritual life of righteousness, in which he was created; and, so, death passed upon him, as the inevitable consequence of his sin. (Rom. v. 12.) As the children of fallen Adam, all mankind bear his image. They partake of his nature,

and are involved in the consequences of his fall. To every member of every successive generation, the words of the Redeemer are alike applicable, "Ye must be born again." (John iii. 7.) But while we hold these views of the lost condition of man in the fall, we rejoice to believe that sin is not imputed to any, until they transgress the divine law, after sufficient capacity has been given to understand it; and that infants, though inheriting this fallen nature, are saved in the infinite mercy of God through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

### JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John iii. 16.) We believe that justification is of God's free grace, through which, upon repentance and faith, He pardons our sins, and imparts to us a new life. It is received, not for any works of righteousness that we have done, (Titus iii. 5.) but in the unmerited mercy of God in Christ Jesus. Through faith in Him, and the shedding of His precious blood, the guilt of sin is taken away, and we stand reconciled to God. The offering up of Christ as the propitiation for the sins of the whole world, is the appointed manifestation both of the righteousness and of the love of God. In this propitiation the pardon of sin involves no abrogation or relaxation of the law of holiness. It is the vindication and establishment of that law, (Rom. iii. 31.) in virtue of the free and righteous submission of the Son of God Himself to all its requirements. He, the unchangeably just, proclaims Himself the justifier of him that believeth in



Jesus. (Rom. iii. 26.) From age to age, the sufferings and death of Christ have been a hidden mystery, and a rock of offense to the unbelief and pride of man's fallen nature; yet, to the humble penitent whose heart is broken under the convicting power of the Spirit, life is revealed in that death. As he looks upon Him who was wounded for our transgressions, (Isa. liii. 5.) and upon whom the Lord was pleased to lay the iniquity of us all, (Isa. liii. 6.) his eye is more and more opened to see, and his heart to understand, the exceeding sinfulness of sin for which the Savior died; whilst, in the sense of pardoning grace, he will joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. (Rom. v. 11.)

We believe that in connection with Justification is Regeneration: that they who come to this experience know that they are not their own. (I Cor. vi. 19.) that being reconciled to God by the death of His Son, we are saved by His life; (Rom. v. 10.) a new heart is given and new desires; old things are passed away, and we become new creatures, (II Cor. v. 17.) through faith in Christ Jesus; our wills being surrendered to His holy will, grace reigns through righteousness, unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. v. 21.)

Sanctification is experienced in the acceptance of Christ in living faith for justification, in so far as the pardoned sinner, through faith in Christ, is clothed with a measure of His righteousness and receives the Spirit of promise; for, as saith the Apostle, "Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (I Cor. vi. 11.) We rejoice to believe that the provisions of "the blood of Christ" are sufficient to deliver from the power, as

well as from the guilt, of sin, and to enable His believing children always to triumph in Christ. (II. Cor. ii. 14.) How full of encouragement is the declaration, "According to your faith be it unto you." (Matt. ix. 29.) Whosoever submits himself wholly to God, believing and appropriating His promises, and exercising faith in Christ Jesus, will have his heart continually cleansed from all sin, by His precious blood, and, through the renewing, refining power of the Holy Spirit, be kept in conformity to the will of God, will love Him with all his heart, mind, soul and strength, and be able to say, with the Apostle Paul, "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Rom. viii. 2.) Thus, in its full experience, Sanctification is deliverance from the pollution, nature, and love of sin. To this we are every one called, that we may serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life. (Luke i. 74, 75.) It was the prayer of the apostle for the believers, "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you who also will do it." (I. Thes. v. 23, 24.) Yet the most holy Christian is still liable to temptation, is exposed to the subtle assaults of Satan, and can only continue to follow holiness as he humbly watches unto prayer, and is kept in constant dependence upon his Savior, walking in the light, (I Jno. i. 7.) in the loving obedience of faith.

### THE RESURRECTION AND FINAL JUDGMENT

We believe, according to the Scriptures, that there



shall be a resurrection from the dead, both of the just and of the unjust, (Acts xxiv. 15.) and that God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ whom He hath ordained. (Acts xvii. 31.) For, as saith the apostle, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II. Cor. v. 10.)

We sincerely believe, not only a resurrection in Christ from the fallen and sinful state here, but a rising and ascending into glory with Him hereafter; that when He at last appears we may appear with Him in glory. But that all the wicked, who live in rebellion against the light of grace, and die finally impenitent, shall come forth to the resurrection of condemnation. And that the soul of every man and woman shall be reserved, in its own distinct and proper being, and shall have its proper body as God is pleased to give it. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body; (I. Cor. xv. 44.) that being first which is natural, and afterward that which is spiritual. And though it is said, "this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and this mortal shall put on immortality," (I Cor. xv. 53.) the change shall be such as will accord with the declaration, "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." (I. Cor. xv. 50.) We shall be raised out of all corruption and corruptibility, out of all mortality, and shall be the children of God, being the children of resurrection. (Luke xx. 36.) (See also Declaration of 1693, Sewell's History, vol. II., 383-384.)

"Our citizenship is in heaven" (R. V.), from whence

also we look for the Savior the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. (Phil. iii. 20, 21.)

We believe that the punishment of the wicked and the blessedness of the righteous shall be everlasting; according to the declaration of our compassionate Redeemer, to whom the judgment is committed, "These shall go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (R. V., Matt. xxv. 46.)

### BAPTISM

We would express our continued conviction that our Lord appointed no outward rite or ceremony for observance in His church. We accept every command of our Lord in what we believe to be its genuine import, as absolutely conclusive. The question of the use of outward ordinances is with us a question, not as to the authority of Christ, but as to His real meaning. We reverently believe that, as there is one Lord and one faith, so there is, under the Christian dispensation, but one baptism, (Eph. iv. 4, 5.) even that whereby all believers are baptized in the one Spirit into the one body. (I. Cor. xii. 13. R. V.) This is not an outward baptism with water, but a spiritual experience; not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, (I. Pet. iii. 21.) but that inward work which, by transforming the heart and settling the soul upon Christ, brings forth the answer of a good conscience towards God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, in the experience of His love and power, as the risen and ascended Savior. No baptism



in outward water can satisfy the description of the apostle, of being buried with Christ by baptism unto death. (Rom. vi. 4.) It is with the Spirit alone that any can thus be baptized. In this experience the announcement of the Forerunner of our Lord is fulfilled, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." (Matt. iii. 11.) In this view we accept the commission of our blessed Lord as given in Matthew xxviii. 18, 19 and 20th verses: "And Jesus came to them and spake unto them saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (R. V.) This commission, as we believe, was not designed to set up a new ritual under the new covenant, or to connect the initiation into a membership, in its nature essentially spiritual, with a mere ceremony of a typical character. Otherwise it was not possible for the Apostle Paul, who was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostle, (II Cor. xi. 5.) to have disclaimed that which would, in that case, have been of the essence of his commission when he wrote, "Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel." (I. Cor. i. 17.) Whenever an external ceremony is commanded, the particulars, the mode and incidents of that ceremony, become of its essence. There is an utter absence of these particulars in the text before us, which confirms our persuasion that the commission must be construed in connection with the spiritual power which the risen Lord promised should attend the witness of his apos-

tles and of the church to Him, and which after Pentecost, so mightily accompanied their ministry of the word and prayer, that those to whom they were sent were introduced into an experience wherein they had a saving knowledge of, and living fellowship with, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

#### THE SUPPER OF THE LORD

Intimately connected with the conviction already expressed is the view that we have ever maintained as to the true supper of the Lord. We are well aware that our Lord was pleased to make use of a variety of symbolic utterances, but He often gently upbraided His disciples for accepting literally what He had intended only in its spiritual meaning. His teaching, as in His parables or in the command to wash one another's feet, was often in symbols, and ought ever to be received in the light of His own emphatic declaration, "The words that I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life." (Jno. vi. 63.) The old covenant was full of ceremonial symbols; the new covenant, to which our Savior alluded at the last supper, is expressly declared by the prophet to be "not according to the old." (Jer. xxxi. 32, Heb. viii. 9.) We cannot believe that in setting up this new covenant the Lord Jesus intended an institution out of harmony with the spirit of this prophecy. The eating of His body and the drinking of His blood cannot be an outward act. They truly partake of them who habitually rest upon the sufferings and death of our Lord as their only hope, and to whom the indwelling Spirit gives to drink of the fullness that is in Christ. It is this inward and spiritual partaking that is the true supper of the Lord.



The presence of Christ with His church is not designed to be by symbol or representation, but in the real communication of His own Spirit. "I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, who shall abide with you forever." (Jno. xiv. 16.) convincing of sin, testifying of Jesus, taking of the things of Christ, this blessed Comforter communicates to the believer and to the church, in a gracious, abiding manifestation, the REAL PRESENCE of the Lord. As the great remembrancer, through whom the promise is fulfilled, He needs no ritual or priestly intervention in bringing to the experience of the true commemoration and communion. "Behold," saith the risen Redeemer, "I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me." (Rev.. iii. 20.) In an especial manner, when assembled for congregational worship, are believers invited to the festival of the Savior's peace, and, in a united act of faith and love, unfettered by any outward rite or ceremonial, to partake together of the body that was broken and of the blood that was shed for them, without the gates of Jerusalem. In such a worship they are enabled to understand the words of the apostle as expressive of a sweet and most real experience: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread." (I. Cor. x. 16, 17.)

### PUBLIC WORSHIP

Worship is the adoring response of the heart and

mind to the influence of the Spirit of God. It stands neither in forms nor in the formal disuse of forms; it may be without words as well as with them, but it must be in spirit and in truth. (John iv. 24.) We recognize the value of silence, not as an end, but as a means toward the attainment of the end; a silence, not a listlessness or of vacant musing, but of holy expectation before the Lord. Having become His adopted children through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is our privilege to meet together and unite in the worship of Almighty God, to wait upon Him for the renewal of our strength, for communion one with another, for the edification of believers in the exercise of various spiritual gifts, and for the declaration of the glad tidings of salvation to the unconverted who may gather with us. This worship depends not upon numbers. Where two or three are gathered together in the name of Christ there is a church, and Christ, the living Head, in the midst of them. Through His mediation without the necessity for any inferior instrumentality, is the Father to be approached and reverently worshiped. The Lord Jesus has forever fulfilled and ended the typical and sacrificial worship under the law, by the offering up of Himself upon the cross for us, once for all. He has opened the door of access into the inner sanctuary, and graciously provided spiritual offerings for the service of His temple, suited to the several conditions of all who worship in spirit and in truth. The broken and the contrite heart, the confession of the soul prostrate before God, the prayer of the afflicted when he is overwhelmed, the earnest wrestling of the spirit, the outpouring of humble thanksgiving, the spiritual song and melody of



the heart, (Eph. v. 19.) the simple exercise of faith, the self denying service of love, these are among the sacrifices which He, our merciful and faithful High Priest, is pleased to prepare, by His Spirit, in the hearts of them that receive Him, and to present with acceptance unto God.

By the immediate operations of the Holy Spirit, He as the Head of the church, alone selects and qualifies those who are to present His messages or engage in other service for Him; and, hence, we cannot commit any formal arrangement to any one in our regular meetings for worship. We are well aware that the Lord has provided a diversity of gifts (I Cor. xii. 4-6.) for the needs both of the church and of the world, and we desire that the church may feel her responsibility, under the government of her Great Head, in doing her part to foster these gifts, and in making arrangements for their proper exercise.

It is not for individual exaltation, but for mutual profit, and the gifts are bestowed; (I. Cor. xii. 7.) and every living church, abiding under the government of Christ, is humbly and thankfully to receive and exercise them, in subjection to her Holy Head. The church that quenches the Spirit and lives to itself alone must die.

We believe the preaching of the Gospel to be one of the chief means, divinely appointed, for the spreading of the glad tidings of life and salvation through our crucified Redeemer, for the awakening and conversion of sinners, and for the comfort and edification of believers. As it is the prerogative of the Great Head of the church alone to select and call the ministers of His Gospel, so we believe that both the gift

and the qualification to exercise it must be derived immediately from Him, and that, as in the primitive church, so now also, He confers spiritual gifts upon women as well as upon men, agreeably to the prophecy recited by the apostle Peter, "It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy." (Acts ii. 17.) respecting which the apostle declares, "the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts ii. 39.) As the gift is freely received so it is to be freely exercised, (Matt. x. 8. See also Acts xx. 33-35.) in simple obedience to the will of God.

Spiritual gifts, precious as they are, must not be mistaken for grace; they add to our responsibility, but do not raise the minister above his brethren or sisters. They must be exercised in continued dependence upon our Lord; and blessed is that ministry in which man is humbled, and Christ and His grace exalted. "He that is greatest among you," said our Lord and Master, "let him be as the younger; and he that is chief as he that doth serve. I am among you as he that serveth." (Luke xxii. 26, 27.)

While the church cannot confer spiritual gifts, it is its duty to recognize and foster them, and to promote their efficiency by all the means in its power. And while, on the one hand, the Gospel should never be preached for money, (Acts viii, 20, xx. 33-35.) on the other, it is the duty of the church to make such provision that it shall never be hindered for want of it.

The church, if true to her allegiance, cannot forget her part in the command, "Go ye into all the world,



and preach the Gospel to every creature. (Mark xvi. 15.) Knowing that it is the Spirit of God that can alone prepare and qualify the instruments who fulfill this command, the true disciple will be found still sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening that he may learn, and learning that he may obey. He humbly places himself at his Lord's disposal, and, when he hears the call, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" is prepared to respond, in childlike reverence and love, "Here am I, send me." (Isaiah vi. 8.)

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

Prayer is the outcome of our sense of need, and of our continued dependence upon God. He who uttered the invitation, "Ask and it shall be given you," (Matt. vii. 7.) is himself the Mediator and High Priest who, by His Spirit, prompts the petition, and who presents it with the acceptance before God. With such an invitation, prayer becomes the duty and the privilege of all who are called by His name. Prayer is, in the awakened soul, the utterance of the cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner," (Luke xviii. 13.) and, at every stage of the believer's course, prayer is essential to his spiritual life. A life without prayer is a life practically without God. The Christian's life is a continual asking. The thirst that prompts the petition produces, as it is satisfied, still deeper longings, which prepare for yet more bounteous supplies, from Him who delights to bless. Prayer is not confined to the closet. When uttered in response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, it becomes an important part of public worship, and, whenever the Lord's people meet together in His name, it is their privilege to wait upon Him for the

spirit of grace and supplications. (Zach. xii. 10.) A life of prayer cannot be other than a life of praise. As the peace of Christ reigns in the church, her living members accept all that they receive, as from His pure bounty, and each day brings them fresh pledges of their Father's love. Satisfied with the goodness of His house, whether as individuals, in families, or in congregations, they will be still praising Him, (Psalm lxxxiv. 4) heart answering to heart, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name." (Ps. ciii. 1.)

### LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE IN ITS RELATION TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT

That conscience should be free, and that in matters of religious doctrine and worship man is accountable only to God, are truths which are plainly declared in the New Testament; and which are confirmed by the whole scope of the Gospel, and by the example of our Lord and His disciples. To rule over the conscience, and to command the spiritual allegiance of his creature man, is the high and sacred prerogative of God alone. In religion every act ought to be free. A forced worship is plainly a contradiction in terms, under that dispensation in which the worship of the Father must be in spirit and in truth. (John iv. 24.)

We have ever maintained that it is the duty of Christians to obey the enactments of civil government, except those which interfere with our allegiance to God. We owe much to its blessings. Through it we enjoy liberty and protection, in connection with law and order. Civil government is a divine ordinance,



(Rom. xiii 1, I. Pet. ii. 13-16.) instituted to promote the best welfare of man, hence magistrates are to be regarded as God's ministers who should be a terror to evil doers and a praise to them that do well. Therefore, it is with us a matter of conscience to render them respect and obedience in the exercise of their proper functions.

### MARRIAGE

Marriage is an institution graciously ordained by the Creator Himself, for the help and continuance of the human family. It is not a mere civil contract, and ought never to be entered upon without a reference to the sanction and blessing of Him who ordained it. It is a solemn engagement for the term of life, (Matt. xix. 5, 6.) designed for the mutual assistance and comfort of both sexes, that they may be helpmeets to each other in things temporal and spiritual. To this end it should imply concurrence in spiritual as well as temporal concerns, and should be entered upon discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of the Lord.

### PEACE

We feel bound explicitly to avow our unshaken persuasion that all war is utterly incompatible with the plain precepts of our divine Lord and Law-giver, and the whole spirit of His Gospel, and that no plea of necessity or policy, however urgent or peculiar, can avail to release either individuals or nations from the paramount allegiance which they owe to Him who hath said, "Love your enemies." (Matt. v. 44, Luke vi. 27.) In enjoining this love, and the forgiveness of injuries, He who has brought us to Himself has not

prescribed for man precepts which are incapable of being carried into practice, or of which the practice is to be postponed until all shall be persuaded to act upon them. We cannot doubt that they are incumbent now, and that we have in the prophetic Scriptures the distinct intimation of their direct application not only to individuals, but to nations also. (Isaiah ii. 4, Micah iv. 1.) When nations conform their laws to this divine teaching, wars must necessarily cease.

We would, in humility, but in faithfulness to our Lord, express our firm persuasion that all the exigencies of civil government and social order may be met under the banner of the Prince of Peace, in strict conformity with His commands.

### OATHS

We hold it to be the inalienable privilege of the disciple of the Lord Jesus that his statements concerning matters of fact within his knowledge should be accepted, under all circumstances, as expressing his belief as to the fact asserted. We rest upon the plain command of our Lord and Master, "Swear not at all;" (Matt. v. 34.) and we believe any departure from this standard to be prejudicial to the cause of truth and to that confidence between man and man, the maintenance of which is indispensable to our mutual well being. This command, in our persuasion, applies not to profane swearing only, but to judicial oaths also. It abrogates any previous permission to the contrary, and is, for the Christian, absolutely conclusive.

### THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Whilst the remembrance of our Creator ought to



be at all times present with the Christian, we would express our thankfulness to our Heavenly Father that He has been pleased to honor the setting apart of one day in seven for the purpose of holy rest, religious duties, and public worship; and we desire that all under our name may avail themselves of this great privilege as those who are called to be risen with Christ, and to seek those things that are above where He sitteth at the right hand of God. (Coloss. iii. 1.) May the release thus granted from other occupations be diligently improved. On this day of the week especially ought the households of Friends to be assembled for the reading of the Scriptures and for waiting upon the Lord; and we trust that, in a Christianly wise economy of our time and strength, the engagements of the day may be so ordered as not to frustrate the gracious provision thus made for us by our Heavenly Father, or to shut out the opportunity either for public worship or for private retirement and devotional reading.

In presenting this declaration of our Christian faith, we desire that all our members may be afresh encouraged, in humility and devotedness, to renewed faithfulness in fulfilling their part in the great mission of the Church, and through the Church to the world around us, in the name of our Crucified Redeemer. Life from Christ, life in Christ, must ever be the basis of life for Christ. For this we have been created and redeemed, and, by this alone, can the longings of our immortal souls be satisfied.

## CHAPTER III.

## SECTION 1.

## WORSHIP

It is the duty and the privilege of believers to meet together for the public worship of God. In doing this they each time make a public profession to the world of their faith in Christ, and avail themselves of opportunities for spiritual blessing and mutual helpfulness not otherwise offered.

Worship is the highest act of which the human faculties are capable, and it can be truly performed only as it is in response to the influence of the Spirit of God. Public worship in the Christian Church is in accordance with the declaration of our Lord, that "where two or three are met together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." The congregation is thus, "the congregation of the Lord," and the meeting is primarily with Him. He touches the spiritual consciousness of believers, and thus, through Him, their High Priest and Intercessor, they are enabled to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Worship stands neither in forms nor in the formal disuse of forms; it may be without words as well as with them. Both silence and vocal exercises are recognized and valued not as ends, but as means toward the attainment of an end, which is the divine blessing upon the individual and the congregation.

As Master of the Assembly, the Lord directs and leads the profitable exercises of His congregation. He calls and qualifies whom He will to be the bearer of His message, and the individual believer should hold



himself in obedient submission to His will. The occasions of public worship are divinely appointed for the edification of believers in the truth and for the proclamation of fresh and vital messages of salvation to the world.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### SECTION 2.

It has pleased the Head of the Church to make use of human instrumentalities in the accomplishment of His purposes; to this end He continues to bestow special gifts upon certain members of the body, for the propagation of the Gospel; for the perfecting of believers; and for the edifying and strengthening of the whole body in faith and life and power. The exercise of these gifts is a potent means by which the Church brings the truth to the individual consciousness, interprets and proclaims its message, and reveals its scope and purpose. There are varieties of gifts in the ministry, and in a properly organized body provision is made for the exercise and development of them all. It is not easy to draw a sharp distinction between the different types of ministry; frequently they are united in one person, who is thus peculiarly qualified for helpful service.

There is a gift for the ministry of instruction and of exposition, or of teaching the truth. Those who possess this gift are enabled to contribute in different degrees to the establishment of the membership, and to the expansion of the conception of divine things. This ministry of teaching requires a balanced, trained and well-stored mind, and the consecration of that mind

to the service of Him who is the Truth.

There is a gift of speaking to states and needs of individuals, and of congregations. This prophetic ministry is characterized by its spiritual vision, the self-evidence of its message and its fitness for the situation. It is a gift of seeing truth immediately and of effectively teaching it to others.

There is a gift for exhortation, which is an ability for making an appeal to the hearts of men, and for stirring them to a sense of God's love and of His purposes for man—the power of moving and convincing souls; those who possess this gift are peculiarly fitted for evangelistic work.

There is also the pastoral gift, which consists especially in ability to do personal work with individuals or with families. This gift fits the possessor of it to comfort those who mourn, to lead the members into a closer religious life, to arouse in the young an interest in the things of the Spirit, and to impress others with a sense of the scope and reality of the spiritual life. It is the gift of shepherding and feeding the flock.

The Church cannot make or appoint ministers; it can only recognize gifts where they exist and properly provide for their exercise and development as a sacred bestowal of the Head of the Church.



## PART II.

## THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT

## CHAPTER I.

## THE DENOMINATION OF THE FRIENDS

The denomination of the Friends is composed of Yearly Meetings with their subordinate branches, in Great Britain, Ireland, the United States and Canada; and those members who are variously situated in other parts of the world. The bond of union is maintained by annual correspondence between them; by issuing and receiving the credentials of ministers for special service; by granting and receiving certificates of membership in cases of removal, and by joint participation in religious and benevolent enterprises. Each Yearly Meeting is independent in the transaction of its business.

1. The Friends recognize and emphasize the fundamental and essential truth that Jesus Christ is the Head of His Church; that He dwells in the hearts of His believers; that, as they look for His guidance, their understandings are enlightened and they are enabled to do His will. Associated with this is the further truth that the Head of the Church is pleased to confer upon each believer some especial gift or gifts which he is to exercise with such ability as may be possessed. Members have equal rights and privileges

in the denomination, modified only by the gifts they have received and their faithfulness in the exercise thereof. It is therefore both theocratic and democratic in the principle of its government.

2. Positions in the organization relating to spiritual matters result from the official recognition of these gifts by the body rather than from appointment to office. Appointments are made to other positions. Each member has duties to perform and responsibilities to meet, and the business of the organization is conducted in recognition of this equality of rank in the membership, with the further recognition of the special gifts.

3. There are no distinctions in the rights, privileges or responsibilities of the members because of sex.

4. The business of the organization is transacted in meetings, in which every member of the body has a right to participate. These meetings, in some instances, delegate authority in certain matters to other meetings composed of those who occupy specified positions or who have been appointed for the special service.

## CHAPTER II.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Friends admit into membership all who make a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose lives testify to their union with Him, and who accept the doctrine of the Gospel as held by The Friends. The children of members are enrolled as Associate members. They are thus recognized, not because their birthright can of itself make them members of the body of Christ, for they can only become such by experienc-



ing the new birth by the Holy Spirit, but because of the promises in the Holy Scriptures to believers and their households, and the conviction that true Christians will so make their children the objects of living prayer, and will so instruct them in the Gospel and go with them to the Throne of Grace, that they will surrender their hearts to God in their youth, and early take a natural and living interest in the Church as they do in the family. Persons thus enrolled as Associate members shall be enrolled as Active members of the Church when they shall have made a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord and shall have accepted the doctrines of the Gospel as held by The Friends. If the member does not make such profession when he reaches matured years, his name may be dropped from the list of members, at the discretion of the Monthly Meeting. Where but one parent is a member the children may be enrolled as Associate members upon the request of that parent and with the consent of the other.

### CHAPTER III.

#### A MEETING

A congregation of members is called a meeting or a church. It is under the supervision of ministers and elders as to its spiritual interest, and of overseers as to the moral conduct of the members. These are officers of the Monthly Meeting of which the particular meeting forms a part.

The business affairs of a congregation are cared for by the regular officers and by such committees as may be appointed by the Monthly Meeting for this purpose

from the members of the congregation. Monthly Meetings may establish a business meeting for a particular congregation when its local interests make such meeting advisable. Such organization to consist of members and actively supporting non-members.

### CHAPTER IV.

#### MEETINGS FOR BUSINESS—CLERKS

The clerk, or presiding officer, of a business meeting has the care of its business, which he lays before it for consideration and determines what conclusion the meeting reaches. In a meeting for business it should be the chief desire to ascertain what may be the mind of the Lord, and the clerks should be chosen with a special reference to their sound judgment and gift of spiritual discernment, and their ability to determine what is the will of the meeting as indicated by the expressions made. Clerks should be familiar with the usages of the denomination and with all its departments of work. The clerk shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the meeting, and he shall furnish copies of necessary portions of such records to persons authorized to ask for them, under the appointment of the same or any superior meeting. He shall sign on the meeting's behalf all official documents put forth by it. In all business meetings such assistant clerks may be appointed as may be found advisable.

### CHAPTER V.

#### SECTION 1.—MONTHLY MEETINGS

1. A Monthly Meeting is a regular organization of



one or more congregations, and consists of all those persons who are entitled to be recorded upon its list of members. It is charged with the government of the body, according to the Constitution and Discipline, and has authority to receive and dismiss members; discipline offenders; to grant appeals; to consider and act upon all questions affecting the membership; to hold and administer real estate and other property for the use of the Church; and to adopt and carry out measures for the improvement of the spiritual interests of the body. It meets monthly for the transaction of business; once in three months it reports, in an abstract of its minutes, such business as should be laid before the Quarterly Meeting of which it forms a part and to which it is subordinate, and to attend which it may appoint two or more representatives.

2. Each member has a right to participate in the business of the Monthly Meeting.

3. A Monthly Meeting is duly organized for the transaction of business when it has been established by a superior meeting and has appointed a clerk to have charge of its business.

4. All officers appointed by the meeting shall hold their positions until their successors are appointed.

### SECTION 2.—CLERK

The clerk of a Monthly Meeting shall be appointed by the meeting on the nomination of a committee named for the purpose. He shall forward to the Quarterly Meeting such business as requires its attention and such abstracts of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting as may be necessary. He shall keep (in a book printed for the purpose and provided by the

Yearly Meeting) a correct record of the membership, including all births, marriages, deaths, and transfers, and he shall annually furnish the Quarterly Meeting such statistical information as the Yearly Meeting may direct, including the recording, deaths, and transfers of ministers. Where found desirable, a recorder may be appointed to assist the clerk in keeping these records.

### SECTION 3.—MINISTERS AND ELDERS

Ministers and elders are charged with the oversight and care of the spiritual interests of their various congregations. The choice of these is based upon moral character and the possession of spiritual gifts and qualifications. They are designated for their positions by the Monthly Meetings in the manner prescribed in chapters VII. and VIII., Part II.

### SECTION 4.—OVERSEERS.

1. The Monthly Meeting shall choose every three years, through the nomination of a committee, two or more faithful and judicious persons for each separate congregation to serve as overseers. It shall be their duty to exercise watchful care and affectionate oversight for the maintenance of a consistent moral life by the members of the meeting; to extend care and reproof in all cases of disobedience, disorder, or any conduct unbecoming to a Christian, and to restore, if possible, such offenders to an orderly life and to full fellowship with the meeting.

2. If due care and labor in this direction prove ineffectual, it becomes their duty to enter complaint to the Monthly Meeting against such offenders.



## SECTION 5.—TREASURER

Each Monthly Meeting shall annually appoint a treasurer, who shall receive and disburse funds as directed by the meeting, keep a regular account of the money so received and paid, and make an annual report to the Monthly Meeting.

## SECTION 6.—CORRESPONDENTS

Each Monthly Meeting shall appoint a correspondent to authenticate documents issued by it to other meetings, and to attend to such correspondence as the meeting may direct. Information of the appointment of correspondents is to be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting.

## SECTION 7.—THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Each Monthly Meeting shall appoint three or more of its members to serve as a Board of Trustees. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to hold and manage all real estate and personal property belonging to the meeting, to keep all deeds legally recorded, to guard all property from injury or improper use, to preserve all important records and documents, and to make an annual report to the Monthly Meeting. Where Monthly Meetings are incorporated under State laws their property will necessarily be held and administrated in accordance therewith. The Yearly Meeting may provide for the holding and transferring of real estate and other property by its trustees. (See Chapter X, Sec. 1, Paragraph 10.)

## SECTION 8.—FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Monthly Meeting shall annually appoint a

Finance Committee to superintend the raising and expending of funds, and to provide for the incidental expenses of the Monthly Meeting and its congregations. There may be a separate committee for each congregation where found desirable.

## SECTION 9.—PASTORAL COMMITTEE.

The ministers, elders, and overseers of each congregation constitute its Pastoral Committee. The Monthly Meeting may also appoint other members to co-operate with them in this work. (See Chapter I., Part IV.)

## SECTION 10.—OTHER COMMITTEES.

Monthly Meetings shall appoint such other committees as the interests of the various departments of their work may require.

## SECTION 11.—REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.

Each Monthly Meeting shall annually report to the Quarterly Meeting preceding the Yearly meeting upon the spiritual condition of its membership and its meetings, basing its report upon those received from its congregations, and covering the points named in the clause relating thereto. (See Chapter XIII, Section 1, Par. 2-3.)

## CHAPTER VI.

## NEW FIELDS OF WORK

1. When a new field of work has been entered upon by the members of a congregation, and has progressed beyond their individual care, it should be under



the care of the Monthly Meeting, and new meetings for worship be established when advisable.

2. When a Monthly Meeting shall deem it advisable for a new Monthly Meeting to be established within its limits, it shall send a proposition therefor to the Quarterly Meeting, which shall appoint a committee to consider the subject and report. If the Quarterly Meeting approves the proposition it shall establish the meeting and report its action to the Yearly Meeting. The request shall state when and where the New Monthly Meeting is to be held and to what Quarterly Meeting it is to be attached.

3. **Monthly Meetings** have authority to petition the Yearly Meeting, through their Quarterly Meetings to establish or to discontinue, or to divide a Quarterly Meeting, or to unite two or more Quarterly Meetings.

4. When members of the Friends Church belonging to two or more Monthly Meetings desire the establishment of a new Monthly Meeting, they should send a request for such Meeting to the most convenient Monthly Meeting. The place of membership of those signing must be given. When the request is received by the Monthly Meeting, it shall be treated as though they were all members.

## CHAPTER VII.

### SECTION 1.—RECORDING OF MINISTERS

1. When a member, man or woman, has spoken as a minister (see Gifts in the Ministry) so that the meeting is edified and spiritually helped thereby, the Local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight is carefully to consider whether he has received from the Head of

the Church a gift in the ministry which should be officially recognized. Persons may occasionally speak to edification, or engage in exhortion, or give testimony to their experience, or offer vocal prayer with evidence of spiritual power without having, necessarily, received a special gift in the ministry.

When the Local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight is satisfied that a member has received a gift in the ministry, it shall send the information to the Monthly Meeting. Upon its concurrence the information shall be forwarded by the Local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight to the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight together with a written statement prepared by the candidate of his belief in the fundamental and distinctive doctrines of the Christian faith as held by Friends and recorded in the discipline of Oregon Yearly Meeting. Upon receiving such information the said Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall appoint a committee to consider the subject; to obtain information as to the evidence that the person has received a spiritual gift in the ministry and a clear call of God to preach the Gospel; as to his manner of life, his doctrinal views, his mental capacity and his general qualifications for the ministry. The committee shall report its judgment to the next Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight, and if this meeting concurs in the action of the local meetings it shall forward its action together with the written statement of his belief to the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight, where it shall be referred to the COMMITTEE on MINISTRY for investigation which committee shall report its findings to the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and



Oversight. The one under consideration shall, if possible, appear in person before this committee, and if approved, he shall be recorded a minister and given a certificate by this body and this information shall be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting and also returned to the Monthly Meeting for the completion of their records. The committee on Ministry of the Yearly Meeting shall handle all matters pertaining to the ministry which the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight body shall refer to it and shall report back to said body their recommendations for its action. This committee shall be composed of one member from each Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight for a term of two years.

We believe that more and more the local meeting should feel the responsibility of selecting leaders and appointing those to responsible positions who are adequately fitted for them and are doctrinely sound.

## SECTION 2.—LIBERATING MINISTERS.

When a minister believes that he is called of God to ministerial service outside his Quarterly Meeting, the following course shall be pursued:

1. If the proposed service lies within the limits of the Yearly Meeting of which he is a member, the minister shall bring the concern before the Monthly Meeting, and request a certificate of its unity and concurrence. The Monthly Meeting may grant the certificate, defining the nature and the field of the service. Special service may be undertaken under the direction of the Evangelistic and Church Extension Committee of the Yearly Meeting without a certificate.

2. If the proposed service lies within another

American Yearly Meeting, and the Monthly Meeting unites and concurs, it shall transmit a written statement of the nature and field of the proposed service, and of its unity and concurrence therein, to the Quarterly Meeting. If that body also approves, it shall grant the minister requesting it a certificate of the fact, defining the nature and field of the service, and expressing the unity and concurrence therein of the Monthly Meeting. When, in exceptional cases, time does not permit of the action of the Quarterly Meeting, the certificate of the Monthly Meeting may be forwarded to the Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting, who shall confer with the Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight, and, if they approve of the proposed service, they shall endorse the certificate, and such endorsement shall give the necessary authority for the service. These Clerks shall report their action, with the attendant circumstances, to their respective meetings.

3. If the proposed service lies beyond the limits of the American Yearly Meetings, the Monthly Meeting concurring shall transmit to the Quarterly Meeting, and the Quarterly Meeting to the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight, and the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight to the Yearly Meeting, a written statement of the nature and the field of service and their concurrence therein. If the Yearly Meeting also concurs in the service it shall grant the minister a suitable certificate therefor, defining the nature and the field thereof and the unity and concurrence therein of each of the meetings which have considered the subject.

4. When time will not permit the consideration of



the Quarterly Meeting's certificate by the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight and the Yearly Meeting, the certificate shall be forwarded to the Clerk of the Permanent Board of the Yearly Meeting who shall lay the subject before a regular or special meeting of that body. The unity of the Board with the proposed service and its approval, endorsed upon the certificate of the Quarterly Meeting by the Clerk, and countersigned by the Correspondent of the Yearly Meeting, shall give the necessary authority for entering upon the service.

5. In every case where a certificate for a ministerial service is granted, the Clerk and the Correspondent of the meeting finally granting it shall sign the same, and this meeting shall see that the minister is properly provided with means for the accomplishment of the service.

6. When a minister or other worker in the Yearly Meeting desires to engage in special pastoral or evangelistic service within the limits of another Yearly Meeting, he shall lay the matter before his Monthly Meeting as for other service. If that meeting grants him a certificate, he shall submit it to the Evangelistic and Church Extension Committee of the Yearly Meeting; if, after due consideration by the committee, his standing and qualifications appear to offer no hindrance to his entering upon the proposed service, the committee is to furnish him with a written statement to this effect. In the performance of this service he shall work in harmony with the authorities intrusted with such matters in the Yearly Meeting where his service is performed.

Where the service shall continue for a longer period

than six months, the minister should apply to his Monthly Meeting for a certificate transferring his membership to the Monthly Meeting within which his service is located.

7. When a minister has been engaged in pastoral or evangelistic service in any locality, and the local Pastoral committee (See Part IV, Chapter I, Paragraph 3.) becomes satisfied that his services are no longer profitable, it shall officially notify the Monthly Meeting of its judgment, and that meeting shall act as it may deem best. If it concurs in the judgment, the minister shall discontinue all service in the locality where he has been engaged, and the reason for such action shall be given to the meeting of which the minister is a member, if he so requests.

8. All certificates for ministerial service shall, after the performance of the labor, be seasonably returned to the meeting or meetings that granted them.

### SECTION 3.—DEPOSING MINISTERS

When there is evidence that a minister has lost his gift in the ministry and usefulness in his station, and no longer consistently represents Friends in his ministry, or is not in harmony with the doctrines and practices of Friends as stated in our Discipline, he shall be examined in the same manner as a new candidate. (See Chapter 7: Section 1, "Recording Ministers.") Should his own Meeting on Ministry and Oversight fail to institute charges against him, an examination may be demanded by the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight or the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Body. If the charges are sustained he shall be deposed from the ministry and his certificate of recognition shall be surrendered.



## CHAPTER VIII.

## THE APPOINTMENT OF ELDERS

1. Monthly Meetings shall annually appoint a committee of three to co-operate with a committee of the Local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight, in proposing for the station of Elder, persons, who, in their judgment, possess the proper gifts and qualifications therefor. When these nominations are received, the Monthly Meeting shall forward them to the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight for its consideration. If approved by that meeting, the Monthly Meeting may proceed with their appointment. There shall not be less than three Elders in each Monthly Meeting, who shall serve for the term of three years, and, as nearly as possible, one-third of their number shall be appointed each year. (See Part II, Chapter XIII, Section 1, Paragraph 7.)

2. Ministers and Elders are associated in the spiritual care of the flock, and they should jointly feel the responsibility of the spiritual condition of the membership and the congregation. Elders are to co-operate with, encourage and strengthen the ministers in both ministerial and pastoral work, facilitate their labors, promote their usefulness, have an oversight of the public ministrations of the Gospel, assist therein as the spiritual needs of the congregation may require, and extend such advice and counsel to ministers as circumstances may demand. Elders should have quick spiritual discernment for the proper performance of their duties, a good understanding of the Scriptures and of the doctrines of the Christian religion, and a knowledge of the position and purposes of our branch of the Church. They are tenderly to encourage those who

may take any part in public meetings for worship and who give evidence of true spiritual exercise, and they are to restrain such as do not give such evidence. They are prayerfully to seek to discern the spiritual gifts that any may receive and to encourage their exercise and development in every proper way. They are to see that opportunities for such exercise are conveniently afforded. Feeling the weight of the responsibilities resting upon them, Elders will be prayerfully in the active performance of their duties, and it is helpful to have them give public endorsement to the ministry, as way may open therefor, when the truth has been satisfactorily presented.

3. Elders are tenderly to advise with members of the congregation as to their spiritual condition, and, in the freedom of brotherly love, endeavor to aid all in the attainment of a high standard of Christian life.

## CHAPTER IX.

## QUARTERLY MEETINGS

1. A Quarterly Meeting consists of the members of all the Monthly Meetings within its limits and subordinate to it. Its officers shall consist of Clerks, a Correspondent, a Treasurer, and such other officers as are necessary, who shall be appointed on the recommendation of a Nominating Committee.

2. The Quarterly Meeting has the power to establish, divide or discontinue a Monthly Meeting, or to unite two or more Monthly Meetings.

3. In order to establish, discontinue, or divide (See Part II, chapter VI, paragraph 2) a Quarterly Meeting, or to unite two Quarterly Meetings, application should



be made by the Monthly Meetings concerned, through their Quarterly Meeting, or respective Quarterly Meetings, to the Yearly Meeting for its action.

4. The Quarterly Meeting has supervision over the Monthly Meetings. It may review their proceedings and examine the records thereof, so that any irregularities of proceedings may be corrected by the Monthly Meeting. It shall receive appeals from the Monthly Meetings and decide upon them, and shall grant appeals from its own decisions to the Yearly Meeting.

5. The Quarterly Meeting may appoint a committee to advise with the Monthly Meeting in cases of difficulty, as it may know of such need, or upon the request of the Monthly Meeting.

6. At the last session before the Yearly Meeting, the Quarterly Meeting shall receive from the Monthly Meetings all statistics required by the Yearly Meeting, and also reports on the state of the Church, and upon these shall base its report to the Yearly Meeting.

7. The Quarterly Meeting shall appoint representatives to attend the Yearly Meeting on its behalf to be appointed as follows: each Quarterly Meeting shall appoint two representatives at large and two for each one hundred resident members or major fraction thereof. Alternates to equal one-half the number of representatives shall be appointed. Each Quarterly Meeting shall be entitled to a minimum number of six representatives. Vacancies in the representative body shall be filled from the list of alternates, at the first meeting of the representatives. When vacancies have been filled no

change shall be made in the delegations by reason of later arrivals.

8. The Quarterly Meeting shall designate two of this number to represent it upon the Finance Committee. It shall also name two persons to serve on the Nominating Committee of the Yearly Meeting, not necessarily from the representatives; exercising care to name one who is an experienced person.

## CHAPTER X.

### SECTION 1.—YEARLY MEETINGS

1. The Yearly Meeting consists of the members of the Quarterly Meeting subordinate to it, and it possesses complete legislative, judicial and administrative authority. The design of its annual assemblies is the general ordering and regulation of the affairs of the Church in the service of God and the maintenance and promotion of Christian faith, love, unity, life and practice throughout its subordinate meetings.

2. The Yearly Meeting shall be opened at the appointed time and place by the Clerk of the last annual meeting, who shall occupy his position until a successor is appointed. In the event of the absence of the Clerk the Recording or Assistant Clerk shall perform this service. If neither shall be present, the meeting shall appoint a temporary Clerk.

3. The Representatives from the Quarterly Meetings shall nominate to the second sitting of the Yearly Meeting persons to serve the meeting in the position of Clerk and Recording or Assistant Clerk, and such others as may be deemed necessary for the efficient transaction of the business.



4. The Yearly Meeting has the power to decide all questions of administration; to counsel, admonish or discipline its subordinate meetings; to institute measures and provide means for the promotion of truth and righteousness; and to inaugurate and carry on departments of religious and philanthropic work.

5. The Yearly Meeting shall receive annual reports from the Quarterly Meetings as to the state of the Church, to which it shall give prayerful consideration, and it shall extend such counsel and advice in relation thereto as it may deem necessary.

6. The Yearly Meeting shall annually receive abstracts from the minutes of the Quarterly Meetings, containing statements of business for its consideration and action. It may review the proceedings of any Quarterly Meeting and shall give advice and instruction to the Quarterly Meetings when these are requested, or may be thought necessary.

7. Business may be introduced to the Yearly Meeting in the reports from Quarterly Meetings, from the Permanent Board, from the Standing Committees of the Yearly Meeting, from a Special Committee on New Business, and in communications from other Yearly Meetings. Business may also be laid before the Yearly Meeting by any of its members with the consent of the Clerk. When the matter is of special importance, it shall be referred to a committee before it is acted upon.

8. All propositions from Quarterly Meetings, and all proposed legislation affecting this Constitution and Discipline, shall be introduced to the Yearly Meeting in writing, and shall not be finally acted upon on the day of its introduction. Propositions for the amend-

ment of this Constitution and Discipline must be referred to the Permanent Board of the Yearly Meeting, or to a special committee, for its consideration for one year.

9. The Yearly Meeting shall receive and decide all cases of appeal regularly brought before it from the Quarterly Meetings. Its procedure in treating such appeals is indicated in the section on Appeals. (See Part III, Chapter II, Section 2, paragraph 7.)

10. The Yearly Meeting shall appoint Trustees—not fewer than three nor more than seven in each case—who shall hold the titles of its real estate, and have the same duly recorded in the official records of the state or county. Trustees shall be similarly appointed to invest all funds and other personal property, whether received by request, donation or otherwise, and to administer the same according to the direction of the donors. The early Meeting shall have one or more such Boards of Trustees as it may deem advisable. Due care must be exercised by Trustees to observe the requirements of the statutes of their several States in the administration of their trusts.

11. The Yearly Meeting shall annually appoint a Finance Committee, composed of those persons designated by the Quarterly Meetings for the service, who shall consider the propositions for appropriations by the Yearly Meeting and report upon them, and ascertain and report what amounts it will be necessary for the Yearly Meeting to raise.

12. The Yearly Meeting shall appoint a person to serve as Treasurer. He shall receive the money from the Quarterly Meetings, and from other sources, for the Yearly Meeting's use, and shall pay the same as



directed by the Yearly Meeting or its Permanent Board. He shall be authorized to receive and officially receipt for all legacies, donations or other funds requiring a formal legal acknowledgement.

13. The Standing Auditing Committee of the Yearly Meeting shall audit the books of the treasurer and have the report ready to present to the Finance Committee at the beginning of Yearly Meeting.

14. When a meeting is discontinued, the property belonging to said meeting shall be vested in the Yearly Meeting, to be held in trust for some specific purpose, or to be used for the advancement of general work of the Yearly Meeting, as that body may determine. All funds held by such discontinued meeting shall be administered in accordance with the directions of the original donors.

15. The Yearly Meeting shall appoint one person to serve as Correspondent. A Correspondent shall countersign official certificates of ministers liberated for service in foreign lands, epistles and other documents issued to other Yearly Meetings, and such documents and transcripts of records as may require certification beyond the signature of the Clerk.

## SECTION 2.—THE PERMANENT BOARD

1. The Yearly Meeting shall have a Permanent Board to consist of not more than fifty members, who shall be so selected that each Quarterly Meeting of the Yearly Meeting shall be represented. One-fifth of their number shall be appointed each year to serve for five years. It shall annually appoint a Clerk for the management of its business.

2. It shall meet at such times and places as the

Yearly Meeting may designate, or upon its own adjournment. Special meetings may be called by the Clerk on the requisition of five members. Five days' notice of special meetings must be given in writing to all members, and the business to come before the special meeting shall be stated in the call. At least one-fourth of the total number of members shall be required for the transaction of business, and in no case shall action be taken unless one-fourth of the total membership of the Board approves.

3. The Permanent Board shall represent the Yearly Meeting in the interim of its annual assemblies, and it may act on behalf of the Yearly Meeting in cases where the interest or reputation of The Friends may render it necessary. It shall attend to such business as the Yearly Meeting may refer to it. It shall examine memorials of deceased members, transmitted to it from subordinate meetings, and such as are approved it may recommend to the Yearly Meeting for publication.

4. It shall inspect and perfect, when necessary, titles to land and other estates belonging to any meeting; it shall attend to the appropriation of charitable legacies and donations when necessary, and it may give advice where needed on such matters. It shall extend such advice and assistance to persons suffering on account of their Christian testimonies as their cases may require, and may apply to the government, or to persons in authority, on their behalf.

5. It shall keep a record of its proceedings, and annually lay the same before the Yearly Meeting.

6. It may draw on the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting to pay the necessary expenses incurred in the execution of its duties.



## CHAPTER XI

### NEW YEARLY MEETINGS

When it is proposed to establish a new Yearly Meeting by setting off a portion of an existing Yearly Meeting, such meeting or meetings shall inform the Yearly Meeting of their approval of the proposition.

When a new Yearly Meeting is to be established, the Yearly Meeting shall appoint a committee, not to exceed ten in number, to attend the opening of such Yearly Meeting, with the minute of the Yearly Meeting establishing it, and this committee shall inaugurate its sessions in accordance with the organizations of existing Yearly Meetings.

## CHAPTER XII

### FINANCES

Meetings are to give careful attention to wise methods for raising funds for the service of the Church; they shall encourage voluntary giving and shall make such arrangements as will extend to every member an opportunity to contribute as he may desire. Every member should contribute according to his means, and a failure to do this becomes a culpable avoidance of Christian duty. The ordinary necessary expenses of the meetings may properly be raised by quota.

## CHAPTER XIII

### MEETINGS ON MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT

Ministers, Elders and Overseers will be aided in their work by co-operation and mutual consultation.

To facilitate this, Meetings on Ministry and Oversight are established.

### SECTION 1.—THE LOCAL MEETING ON MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT.

1. The Local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight is composed of all the Ministers, Elders and Overseers within the limits of the Monthly Meeting of which they are members. Its regular meetings shall be held once in each month, or once in two or three months, as needs may require. Special meetings may be called by the Clerk on the request of three members. Notice in writing shall be sent to the members five full days before such special meeting.

2. The Local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall have the care of the ministry and the religious work in its congregations. Ministers, Elders and Overseers from each congregation shall designate one of their number to present to the local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight to which they belong a verbal report of the spiritual condition and life of the congregation, the attendance at meetings for public worship, the character of the ministry and its adaptation to the needs of the meeting; statements shall be made as to the evidence of the reception of spiritual gifts by any of the members, and of the care that has been extended toward the exercise and development of such gifts; information shall be given of any special work that may have been entered upon, and of any available fields for service. These reports from the several congregations shall be practically considered, and such action shall be taken, or such advice and assistance given, as the circumstances may require.



3. A report covering the points stated in Paragraph 2 shall be made to the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight by the representatives appointed to attend that meeting. This report may be made in writing, or verbally by one or more of the representatives, save that for the Quarterly Meeting just preceeding the Yearly Meeting the reports are to be made as follows:

At the last local meeting of Ministry and Oversight before the Quarterly Meeting designated above two written reports are to be made. The first is to be prepared by the Overseers (generally) and shall deal with matters as indicated by the Queries as found in Part III, Chapter V, Section I. This is to be presented first in the local meeting on Ministry and Oversight for its approval. It shall then be signed by the clerk and forwarded to the Monthly Meeting at large, and passed by that meeting to the Quarterly Meeting at large. From the reports received from the Monthly Meetings the summary shall be made for the Yearly Meeting as required in Part II, Chapter IX, Paragraph I. Reports concerning the above matters may be made to the Monthly Meeting oftener if desirable.

The second report should deal with the matters covered by the Queries for Meetings on Ministry and Oversight as found in Part III, Chapter V, Section 2. It shall, after approval by the meeting, be signed by the clerk and forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight. From the reports thus received the report for the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall be prepared and forwarded as required in this Chapter, Section 2, Paragraph I.

4. When there is evidence that a person has re-

ceived a gift in the ministry, action shall be taken in accordance with the chapter on the recording of ministers. (Part II, Ch. 7, Sec. 1.)

5. The initiative in the arrangement for pastoral care shall be taken by the pastoral committee of the Monthly Meeting, it to report to the Monthly Meeting for its action. Such ministers shall carry on their labor in harmony with the principles of the denomination and agreeably to the provisions of this Constitution and Discipline, taking care that, in all meetings for worship, opportunity be afforded for the free exercise by the members of the congregation of any gifts for service which the Lord may confer.

When a Monthly Meeting is satisfied that a minister's services in such position are no longer required, it should terminate this relation. Where possible this service shall be terminated at the close of the pastoral year.

6. The Local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall appoint representatives to the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight.

7. The Local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall annually appoint a committee of two to co-operate with a committee of each Monthly Meeting, in nominating to the Monthly Meeting persons for appointment as Elders.

## SECTION 2.—QUARTERLY MEETINGS ON MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT

1. The Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight is composed of the members of the Local Meetings on Ministry and Oversight within its limits. It shall meet regularly near the time of the Quarterly



Meeting to transact the business pertaining to its department of Church government, and it shall appoint representatives, and make a report to the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight.

2. The Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall have the general care of the pastoral work within its limits. It shall be diligent and judicious in devising measures and means for the promotion of spiritual life and godliness, and it shall give special attention to new congregations, weaker meetings and those without a ministry.

3. The Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall appoint one of its members to serve for a period of two years on the Committee on Ministry and report such name to the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight.

### SECTION 3.—YEARLY MEETING ON MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT

1. The Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight is composed of the members of the Quarterly Meetings on Ministry and Oversight within its limits. It shall meet annually at such time as the Yearly Meeting may direct, and thereafter on its own adjournment, but in no case so as to conflict with the sittings of the Yearly Meeting.

2. It shall annually report to the Yearly Meeting the **condition** and **work** of the **ministry**, and of its **membership**; it may **address** epistles of advice and instruction to its subordinate meetings, and appoint committees to visit them.

3. The Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall carefully consider subjects which have reference

to the spiritual needs of the Church, and it may report its judgment to the Yearly Meeting for its action.

4. The Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall consider recommendations from the Quarterly Meetings on Ministry and Oversight for the Recording and Deposing of Ministers as outlined in Chapter VII, Section 1 and 3.



## PART III.

## RULES OF DISCIPLINE

## CHAPTER I.

## SECTION 1.—RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

1. Application for membership may be made in writing to the Monthly Meeting through the members of the Pastoral Committee of the Congregation.

2. It shall be the duty of the Pastoral Committee before presenting the name of an applicant for membership to ascertain whether he makes a credible profession of faith in Christ as his Savior, and accepts the doctrines of the Christian religion as held by the Friends; whether his present life indicates the sincerity of his profession, and whether he will conform to the Rules of Discipline. The judgment of the committee shall be given, with the application, and the Monthly Meeting shall act according to its best judgment. The Clerk shall inform the applicant of his reception into membership.

3. When a member is received, the announcement of his reception may be publicly made at the conclusion of a meeting for worship on the First Day of the week when he is present, that all the members may extend to him a welcome.

4. Parents or guardians may make application for the enrollment of minor children as associate members.

## SECTION 2.—RECEPTION BY CERTIFICATE

1. Monthly Meetings shall issue certificates of membership for such of its members in good standing, or for associate members, as may remove to the limits of another Monthly Meeting when the same is requested, or the Monthly Meeting deems it best to do so, and such certificate shall be accepted by the Monthly Meeting to which it is addressed, unless sufficient reason shall appear to the contrary. In every case the Monthly Meeting receiving the certificate shall inform the meeting which issued it of the action taken thereon, and the membership will not be transferred until such notice is received.

2. When an applicant for membership produces a letter of recommendation from another evangelical denomination, the Monthly Meeting may exercise its judgment as to receiving him on this recommendation.

3. The acceptance and the issuing of all certificates shall be recorded on the minutes of Monthly Meetings, and the list of members corrected accordingly. Removal certificates for ministers shall include a certificate of this position. The official positions of Elders and Overseers are not transferable.

## SECTION 3.—RESIGNATION AND FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Resignations of membership shall be made to the Monthly Meeting in writing. The Monthly Meeting may exercise its discretion in accepting a resignation.

2. If a member in good standing wishes to unite with some other evangelical body of Christians, the



Monthly Meeting may grant him a letter stating his Christian standing, whereupon his membership with Friends shall cease.

3. When any member shall have united with another religious body, the Monthly Meeting, on information thereof, shall remove his name from the list of members and inform him of its action.

4. Members removing to places remote from any Monthly Meeting should correspond with their Monthly Meetings, and, where practicable, Monthly Meetings through the Overseers or a committee, should correspond with their absent members. If no information has been, or can be, received from a member for a period of three years, his Monthly Meeting, in its discretion, may remove his name from its list of members.

## CHAPTER II.

### SECTION 1.—DEALING WITH OFFENDERS

1. All formal complaints against a member shall be introduced to his Monthly Meeting in writing by the Overseers, whereupon a committee shall be appointed to confer with the offender, who shall seek in a spirit of love, to show him his error, and to lead him to repentance and confession of the same, in order that he may be restored to fellowship in the Church. If the exercise of due care and forbearance shall be without avail, the Monthly Meeting shall execute a minute of disownment and furnish the offender with a copy of the same.

2. When any member habitually neglects the attendance of meetings for worship, without reasonable excuse, after a period of three years, due care having

been extended by the Monthly Meeting, his name may be removed from the list of members, and the meeting shall inform him of its action.

3. If any member shall deny the fundamental doctrines of the Christian religion, or shall be guilty of conduct that brings the Christian religion into public disrepute, the Monthly Meeting shall appoint a committee to endeavor, in a Christian spirit, to reclaim him; if this proves unavailing it shall disown him.

### SECTION 2.—APPEALS

1. When a member who has been under dealings by a Monthly Meeting is dissatisfied with its decision, he may file with the next Monthly Meeting, or the one succeeding it, his appeal to the Quarterly Meeting for its review of the case. The Monthly Meeting shall enter the same upon its minutes and inform the Quarterly Meeting thereof. A committee of three shall be appointed to represent it in the case before the Quarterly Meeting.

2. When a Quarterly Meeting receives a notice of appeal from a Monthly Meeting it shall refer the subject to a committee, omitting from the appointment members of the Monthly Meeting appealed from. The committee shall carefully and deliberately examine the whole proceedings in the case from their commencement, giving the appellant and the Monthly Meeting's Committee a full hearing. If it is found that the offense has been rightly adjudged and the charge substantiated, and that the proceedings have been in accordance with the Constitution and Discipline, they are to so report to the Quarterly Meeting, and that Meeting, if it approves of the report, shall confirm the judg-



ment of the Monthly Meeting and inform the appellant of the result.

3. But if it be found that the offense has not been correctly adjudged, or that the charge has not been sufficiently sustained, or that by any irregularity in the proceedings the rights of the appellant have been infringed, the committee shall report in accordance therewith, and the Quarterly Meeting, if it approves of the report, shall set aside the judgment of the Monthly Meeting.

4. In all cases where the judgment of a meeting is set aside, the ground of such decision must be entered upon the minutes, and the meeting affected informed thereof. If that ground be one of irregularity of proceeding only, the meeting shall be at liberty to take up the case again, and correct its error.

5. Should the appellant be dissatisfied with the decision of the Quarterly Meeting, he may file with the next Quarterly Meeting or the one succeeding it, but none later, his appeal to the Yearly Meeting for its review of the case. The Quarterly Meeting shall enter the same upon its minutes, inform the Yearly Meeting thereof, and appoint a committee of three, or more, to represent it, in the case before the Yearly Meeting, or a committee of the same. The Yearly Meeting shall call in all cases of appeal not later than the second day of the sitting of that body.

6. An appellant shall have the right to be present during the appointment of the committee in his case, and objections which he may then make to persons nominated on the committee are to be judged of by the meeting.

7. The committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting

in a case of appeal from a Quarterly Meeting shall examine into and judge of the nature of the offense, and the proceedings in the case, and they shall fully consider the statement of the appellant and that of the respondents, and also the minutes of the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in the case, and shall report to the Yearly Meeting. The decision of the Yearly Meeting shall be final.

8. In every case of appeal the decision shall be recorded upon the minutes of the superior meeting, and the clerk of that meeting shall forward a transcript thereof to the meeting or meetings whence it came, with instructions to enter the same upon their minutes.

9. A Monthly Meeting may appeal to the Yearly Meeting in a case where it may feel aggrieved by the decision of the Quarterly Meeting.

## CHAPTER III.

### MARRIAGE

1. Parties desiring to unite in marriage according to the long-standing custom of the Friends should inform the Monthly Meeting of which one or both of them are members that they intend marriage with each other, which meeting shall enter the proposal on its minutes; and, if either party is a minor, consent of parents or guardians must be given to the meeting.

2. If either party be a member of another Monthly Meeting, the Monthly Meeting where the proposition is introduced should have information thereof, so that the name of the Monthly Meeting may be entered on the record.

3. When any one of our members desires to join



in marriage with one not in membership with us, the same procedure is recommended as when both are members, the Monthly Meeting noting the fact of non-membership on its records.

4. If any objections have been presented to the Overseers, which they shall judge reasonable, they should inform the Monthly Meeting, and a committee should be appointed to investigate and report, when the meeting may dismiss the case or proceed in it, as shall appear right.

5. If no obstruction appears, the parties shall be left at liberty to accomplish their marriage according to the Rules of Discipline.

6. A committee of two men and two women shall be appointed to attend the marriage, to see that it is properly conducted, and make report to the Monthly Meeting.

7. Monthly Meetings shall not, in any case, recognize marriage proceedings under circumstances which would violate the laws of the State in which the marriage is solemnized.

8. Marriages under the Rules of Discipline shall be solemnized in a regular week-day meeting, or in a meeting appointed by the Monthly Meeting.

9. At a suitable time in the meeting the parties should stand up, and, taking each other by the right hand, declare to the following effect, the man first:

"In the presence of the Lord, and before these witnesses, I take thee, D. E., to be my wife, promising, with Divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband, as long as we both shall live."

And the woman in like manner:

"In the presence of the Lord, and before these wit-

nesses, I take thee, A. B., to be my husband, promising, with Divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful wife, as long as we both shall live."

10. A certificate is then to be signed by the parties, the man first, the woman adopting the name of her husband; and then it is to be audibly read by some proper person. At the conclusion of the meeting it should be signed by others as witnesses.

11. Parties who are to marry must carefully observe the requirements of the laws of their State, both in obtaining a license, when such is required, and in reporting the marriage to the proper civil officers.

12. The Yearly Meeting may adopt such regulations for the solemnization of marriage as its local conditions may make advisable.

## CHAPTER IV

### SECTION 1.—DIVORCE

The marriage relation is the most sacred of human engagements, and it is solemnly entered into for life. It must not be broken except upon the grounds set forth in the Holy Scriptures. While this relation may be abused, so as to bring suffering upon innocent persons, the moral welfare of the individuals and of the community requires that the sacred permanency of its obligations be maintained. The scriptural, moral and legal obligation and restrictions apply to husband and wife alike.

### SECTION 2.—TEMPERANCE AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC

All members are earnestly warned against the use of



all intoxicating liquors, and of opium in all its preparations, except for purposes strictly medicinal, and in the manufacture and arts; and they are advised to abstain from the use of tobacco. The use of these tend to physical, mental and moral injury.

As the liquor traffic is a great cause of poverty and crime, and a serious obstacle to the spread of the Gospel, members of the Church should never engage in it in any way, but should be active, earnest and emphatic in their opposition to this great evil. The liquor saloon should receive no countenance in any manner whatsoever.

### SECTION 3.—SECRET SOCIETIES

The rights of individuals to freedom of action, within the proper bounds, must be maintained, but it is the duty of the Church to warn its members against whatever may, in any way, interfere with the best development of Christian character. The so-called "secret societies" may often have benevolent and useful provisions for their members, while at the same time, there may be influences in their association that lower the moral standards, or lead away from the religious interests, or undermine the grounds of faith. The mere pledge to secrecy is a surrender of manly independence that tends to moral decadence. Members of the Church should be very circumspect in these important matters, and they will find safety in the complete avoidance of such relations.

## CHAPTER V.

### SECTION 1.—QUERIES

1. The intention in directing the following queries

to be seriously considered is not only to inquire into the state of the meetings, but also to encourage every member to examine himself whether he acts consistently with the principles of the Christian religion.

No arrangements, however perfect, can take the place of individual faithfulness to Christ, and daily dependence upon the help of the Holy Spirit, which are necessary to growth in spiritual life and to usefulness in the Church. The serious consideration of the following queries should tend to direct the attention of all to the true source of spiritual strength, to promote the religious welfare of individuals, and to keep the Church in a healthy condition.

2. These queries are to be read in Monthly and Quarterly Meetings three times a year:

Query 1. Are all meetings for worship and for the transaction of the business of the Church, duly held, and are you regular and punctual in attending them?

Query 2. Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Are you careful of the reputation of others? When differences arise, do you make earnest effort to end them speedily?

Query 3. Do you seek to maintain a religious life, and to be watchful that you may not be unduly absorbed by temporal affairs? Are you in the daily practice of reading the Holy Scriptures in your families, giving time for reverent waiting upon the Lord?

Query 4. Do you, who have children or others under your care, endeavor to train them for upright and useful lives; and do you prayerfully seek the guidance and blessing of the Lord on your efforts for their conversion and growth in grace? Do you encourage them to read and study the Holy Scriptures?



Query 5. Do you abstain from the manufacture, sale or use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage? Are you careful to avoid all places and amusements inconsistent with a Christian character; and do you observe true moderation in all things?

Query 6. Do you maintain the Christian principle of peace and consistently refrain from bearing arms and from performing military service as incompatible with the precepts and spirit of the gospel; from taking or administering oaths; and from defrauding the public revenue?

Query 7. Do you frequently inspect your affairs and settle your accounts? Are you just in your dealings, punctual to your promises and prompt in the payment of your debts; careful to live within your income; and avoid involving yourselves in business beyond your ability to manage?

Query 8. Do you provide for the suitable education of your children, and do you guard them against hurtful reading and evil associates? Are the necessities of the poor and those likely to require aid inspected and relieved?

Query 9. Do you make diligent effort to acquaint yourselves and those under your care with the spiritual needs of the world; and do you support by prayer and systematic giving those who are laboring to extend Christ's kingdom?

Query 10. Are you careful to uphold the doctrinal standards of Friends as held by Oregon Yearly Meeting? Are you careful in all your appointments of officers, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, calling of pastors, or evangelists, and the recording of ministers, to see that they are in full harmony with the

fundamental principles of Friends as stated in our Discipline?

## SECTION 2.—QUERIES FOR MEETINGS ON MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT

These queries are to be read three times a year in the Local and Quarterly Meetings on Ministry and Oversight:

Query 1. Are you diligent in attending your meetings for worship and for the transaction of the business of the Church, and careful to promote the attendance of your families?

Query 2. Are you in unity with one another, and with the meetings to which you belong, harmoniously laboring together in the love of the Gospel? Have you an earnest religious exercise for the conversion of sinners, and for the building up of believers?

Query 3. Do you prayerfully endeavor to occupy, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in humble dependence upon Christ, the spiritual gifts with which you have been entrusted? Do you cherish an active interest in all who engage in the ministry or other Christian work; and do you make evident your loving sympathy with them and their service?

Query 4. Are you good examples to others in uprightness of life? Do you frequently read the Holy Scriptures, prayerfully seeking a right understanding of them under the enlightening influence of the Holy Spirit?

Query 5. Are you diligent in seeing that all Members of the Body of Ministry and Oversight are in harmony with the fundamental principles of Christianity as held by Friends and stated in the Discipline of Ore-



gon Yearly Meeting? If there are any who teach doctrines or encourage practices subversive to our faith, are you faithful in dealing with them as our Discipline provides?

## PART IV

### DEPARTMENTS OF WORK

#### CHAPTER I.

#### THE PASTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE CONGREGATION.

1. It is the duty of this Committee to have a general oversight of the shepherding of the flock, to be watchful of the interests of absent members, to visit the families of attenders of meetings, to extend a special care to those attenders who are not members and to invite them to join in membership when they are prepared to do so. They shall extend a watchful care over the Associate members, and encourage them to become Active members as soon as they are prepared to do so.

2. The Pastoral Committees shall receive applications for membership, examine each case carefully, and act upon it as provided in Section 1., Chapter I., Part III.

3. All arrangements looking toward the call of a pastor shall be carried on by the Pastoral body through its Clerk.

#### CHAPTER II.

#### THE EVANGELISTIC COMMITTEE OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly Meeting shall have the general over-



sight and care of the evangelistic work within its borders; it shall be diligent to assist the congregation in carrying it on, and it shall have authority to open and assume charge of new fields of labor. It shall annually appoint an Evangelistic Committee to advance these interests whose chairman shall be a member of the Yearly Meeting's Committee on Evangelistic and Church Extension Work.

### CHAPTER III

#### EVANGELISTIC AND CHURCH EXTENSION COMMITTEE

1. The Yearly Meeting shall appoint a Committee on Evangelistic and Church Extension Work, whose duty it shall be to ascertain the needy fields within the limits of the Yearly Meeting, and endeavor to meet the requirements of these by such gospel service as may, under the Divine blessing, arouse the lukewarm and indifferent, bring sinners to repentance and faith in Christ, strengthen believers, and advance the interests of the Church. Special attention shall be given to gathering the scattered membership and to the establishment of meetings where practicable. They shall be authorized to secure funds by voluntary contributions for building new meeting houses and repairing old ones. When this committee engages in evangelistic work within the limits of a Quarterly Meeting, it shall maintain harmonious relations with the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight.

2. This Board shall consist of at least twelve members, appointed for three years, one third to retire each year.

The Quarterly Meeting Superintendent is to be a member of this Board. Quarterly Meetings may suggest names of those to fill vacancies, such appointments to be from different Quarterly Meetings according to membership.

3. The committee shall organize by the appointment of a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who, with the General Superintendent where one is appointed, and Quarterly Meeting Superintendents, shall constitute the Executive Committee. These persons shall perform the duties pertaining to their positions.

4. The committee shall give to ministers, or other workers who desire to engage in special pastoral or evangelistic service, certificates as provided for in Paragraph 6, Section 2, Chapter VII, Part II.

5. The Evangelistic, Pastoral and Church Extension Committee is empowered to take prompt action in regulating any disorders and insubordinations that may arise in connection with its work, where local conditions may make such action necessary.

### CHAPTER IV

#### SECTION I.

The Foreign Mission Board shall consist of at least three members from each Quarterly Meeting, one third to retire each year.

The Quarterly Meeting Superintendents of Missions are to be Members of this Board.

The Quarterly Meetings may suggest names of persons to fill expiring terms, such nominations to be based on membership. If the membership exceeds four hundred it shall be entitled to one more member.



## SECTION 2.

All other boards shall consist of a Superintendent for the Yearly Meeting and a Superintendent from each Quarterly Meeting such as Education, Bible School and Religious Education, Christian Stewardship, Christian Endeavor, Home Missions and Social Service, Literature, Peace, Temperance and Aged Ministers.

## SECTION 3.

Boards and Standing Committees shall be appointed as the Yearly Meeting shall deem Necessary.

## SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

1. The following provisions of Discipline can be changed at any Yearly Meeting, any change to be considered on two different days.

2. Oregon Yearly Meeting consists of all the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings together with their members within its limits. It shall be held annually at Newberg, Oregon, and meets at nine-thirty o'clock on Wednesday following Pacific College Commencement. It may meet elsewhere by adjournment. It shall be opened by the Clerks of the last annual meeting, if present, and they shall fill their places respectively until their successors are chosen. The Representatives from the Quarterly Meetings shall propose to the Yearly Meeting, at the second business session the names of four persons to serve the meeting, viz., one for Presiding Clerk, one for Recording Clerk, one for Reading Clerk, and one for Announcing Clerk.

3. The first session of the meeting for Ministry and

Oversight shall be held at three P. M. of the day preceding the opening of Yearly Meeting.

4. The regular meeting of the Permanent Board shall be held at seven P. M. on the opening day of the Yearly Meeting. Special meetings may be held during the week of Yearly Meeting on the call of the Clerk, notice being given by the Announcing Clerk. The Trustees of the Yearly Meeting are ex-officio members of the Permanent board.

5. The allotment of time in the sessions of the Yearly Meeting shall be made by the Presiding Clerk with the advice and consent of the Chairman of the Evangelistic and Church Extension Board, the President of the Foreign Mission Board and the Superintendents of the different departments of Church work.

6. The meeting for worship held in connection with the Yearly Meeting shall be under the care of the Evangelistic and Church Extension Board.

7. The Boards and Committees shall arrange for the program for the session of the Yearly Meeting allotted to them, said program to be carried out under the direction of the Presiding Clerk.

8. The names and addresses of the ministers, Quarterly Meeting clerks, and the Monthly Meeting correspondents, together with the time and place for holding Quarterly and Monthly Meetings shall be printed in the Minutes each year.

9. The statistical year of the Yearly Meeting shall close April first.

10. When the law of any State requires that a majority of the members of the Monthly Meeting be present in order to transact any special business, only active members over fourteen years of age shall be



considered members entitled to vote.

11. The Pastoral year shall close September first. When a change of pastor seems advisable the meeting should give three months notice.

The same courtesy to be observed when a pastor desires to be released from further pastoral services in a meeting.

### IMPORTANT ACTIONS OF THE YEARLY MEETING

1. The Representatives are requested to send all minutes and official documents desired to be preserved to the chairman of the Trustees, to be placed in a safety box secured for that purpose.

2. Money derived from the sale of Church property constitutes a building fund to be administered as follows:

- (1) That the money be used only in assisting hopeful Meetings in erecting church buildings to be used for the worship of God.
- (2) That this fund be loaned only on the following conditions:
  - (a) That there be a clear opening for a growing church in the community where the church is built.
  - (b) That the membership first raise at least 66⅔ per cent of the amount necessary for the building.
  - (c) That the title to the property be vested in the Yearly Meeting.
  - (d) That after a period of two years the notes draw 5 per cent interest till paid, all interest and principal reverting to the original fund

for similar use.

(e) All loans to be made by the Yearly Meeting Trustees, if so advised by the Yearly Meeting Board of Pastoral and Church Extension work, Page 11—1900.

(3) The Trustees and Evangelistic Board of the Yearly Meeting are directed to waive Section (c) of the above minute whenever in their judgment it is best to do so. Page 38, 1907.

3. All Quarterly Meeting Superintendents and members of Boards of the Yearly Meeting may be nominated by the Quarterly Meeting, such nominations to be given due consideration by the Nominating Committee and, if in its judgment, it would be expedient to make any changes, the nominations in question shall be referred to the representatives acting from that Quarterly Meeting for further nominations.

4. Referring to titles to church property:

Yearly Meeting Trustees are instructed to transfer titles to properties back to Monthly Meetings, upon request of said Monthly Meeting. 1920—Minute 97.

5. The previous action of the Yearly Meeting referring to interest on delinquent stock was rescinded and interest will be assessed only when it is necessary to borrow money and pay interest thereon.

6. The Yearly Meeting Trustees are authorized to borrow money for the Yearly Meeting, when in their judgment and that of the Yearly Meeting Treasurer, such procedure becomes necessary.

7. Referring to board of Pastors' families during Yearly Meeting:

All children under eight years of age to be entertained free; those between the ages of eight and six-



teen to be entertained on the same basis as now provided for pastors and their wives; that those over sixteen and under twenty-one who are wholly dependent on the pastor for support be entertained for half price. 1924—Minute 34.

#### 8. Withdrawal from the Five Years Meeting:

Oregon Yearly Meeting, in keeping with its action in 1924 does now cease to cooperate with its departments of work and to send delegates to its sessions until the Five Years Meeting assumes responsibility for such leadership as indicated by its action in 1922, and through such leadership create a basis for confidence, unity, and cooperation, satisfactory to Oregon Yearly Meeting. 1926—Minute 11.

#### 9. Certificates to Ministers:

The Presiding Clerk is instructed, to annually issue a certificate to each minister in good standing in the Yearly Meeting and that each Monthly Meeting inform the Yearly Meeting Clerk of its action at the time of recording any minister. 1928—Minute 34.

### 10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### I. Composed of

1. Presiding Clerk
2. Yearly Meeting Superintendent
3. Clerk of Permanent Board
4. Yearly Meeting Treasurer
5. Heads of Various Departments  
(Each Monthly Meeting is entitled to one advisory member of this group.)

#### II. Duties and Functions

1. To meet in mid-year to consider the askings of the various departments and adopt a budget to cover the voluntary financial pro-

gram of the various departments of the Yearly Meeting.

2. To present this budget to the various monthly meetings for their consideration, the monthly meetings to notify the Executive Committee of the amount of their acceptance.
3. To consider the responses of the Monthly Meetings to this voluntary budget, and make the proper apportionment among the various boards; and to take whatever action may be deemed wise in case of inadequate responses by the Monthly Meetings.
4. To consider, adopt, and present to the Yearly Meeting in session a united financial program.
5. To nominate a Friend to serve as Yearly Meeting Superintendent, and present the nomination to the Yearly Meeting for action.
6. To consider requests for financial appeals during the sessions of the Yearly Meeting and for general appeals by any departments to be made within the limits of the Yearly Meeting during the year.

Under this plan the whole matter of the Voluntary Program of the Yearly Meeting is considered an administrative affair, and can be carried out without the necessity of disciplinary changes.

The Yearly Meeting finance committee can be continued as it is, with its present functions, dealing with the appropriations of the Yearly Meeting, the auditing of accounts, etc.

The regular appropriations can be made to include the affairs of the Yearly Meeting as a whole, such as



salary of the Yearly Meeting Superintendent, Printing, Janitor, Entertainment, and such other items of appropriation as the Yearly Meeting may direct. This appropriations budget to be directed to the various Quarterly Meetings as heretofore.

## 11. AGED MINISTERS

A Board shall be appointed to have in its care the welfare of the aged ministers of the Yearly Meeting. It shall be appointed as other Boards, namely through the recommendation of the nominating committee of the Yearly Meeting. The members of this Board to be appointed for one, two, and three years respectively at the time of the formation and thereafter for three years as their terms expire. This Board is authorized to solicit and receive funds and to distribute same to needy ministers whose service has been within the limits of Oregon Yearly Meeting for a designated number of years, and who reside within its limits.

The manner and method of soliciting such funds to be determined by said Board. It shall also formulate plans and regulations specifying who may be entitled to receive assistance from said fund.

This Board shall report its organization, plans and its activities to the Yearly Meeting annually.

12. There shall be a Financial Secretary appointed to cooperate with the Yearly Meeting Treasurer and with the Boards to stimulate giving and interest in the budget. 1933—Page 14.

THE END

74. The recommendation from Boise Valley Quarterly Meeting that was brought up last year in regard to adding to Query 5, Section 1, Chapter 5, of 1934 Discipline the words:

"Do you abstain from the manufacture, sale, and use of tobacco as a habit forming drug?" was approved again this year.

By omission of Printing Committee the following should have appeared under Supplementary Regulations on page 88.

12. Vacancies occurring in any board or committee shall be filled by appointment by said board or committee.

5. That concerning the recommendation from Portland Quarterly Meeting, Minute 10, dealing with meetings "adjourned to meet at the call of the clerk," the Yearly Meeting rule as follows:

a. A special session may be called when the clerk or clerks and the pastor or chairman of pastoral committee agree that it is absolutely necessary, provided written notice postmarked five days before the proposed meeting is sent to all resident members, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. It would then be legal to conduct only the special business for which the meeting was called.

b. When important business cannot be completed at a regular session, the Monthly Meeting may be adjourned to meet at the call of the clerk, provided the call for such meeting is given either by public announcement at a regular Sunday morning church service or by written notice as for a special session as above. Since an adjourned session is a part of the regular session, any business which could be presented at the regular session could be presented and acted upon without previous notice.



## **PROPER STEPS TO FOLLOW IN THE MATTER OF RECORDING MINISTERS IN OREGON YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS**

### **Step No. 1:**

The local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight should be **thoroughly** satisfied that the person under consideration has the gift in the ministry. (See page 50, paragraph 1 of chapter 7 on Recording Ministers.)

### **Step No. 2:**

If convinced favorably, the local meeting on Ministry and Oversight sends this information to the Monthly Meeting for its consideration and action. (If the Monthly Meeting does not concur then, the matter is dropped.)

### **Step No. 3:**

If the Monthly Meeting acts favorably, it shall report back to the local meeting on Ministry and Oversight and the person concerned shall be notified by the local meeting on Ministry and Oversight and asked to prepare a written statement of his belief in the fundamental and distinctive doctrines of the Christian faith as held by Friends and recorded in the discipline of Oregon Yearly Meeting of 1934.

### **Step No. 4:**

This written statement together with the action of both the local meeting on Ministry and Oversight and the Monthly Meeting is then forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight by the clerk of the local meeting on Ministry and Oversight; the written statement to be read at this meeting.

### **Step No. 5:**

Upon receiving such information the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall appoint a committee to consider the subject as outlined on page 51 and line 17 of the discipline of Oregon Yearly Meeting.

### **Step No. 6:**

This committee shall report to the next Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight their judgment in the matter. If the decision of the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight is favorable to the joint request of the Local Meeting on Ministry and Oversight and the Monthly Meeting, then the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall forward its action together with the written statement of the candidates belief to the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight. The matter shall then be referred to the Yearly Meeting Committee on Ministry together with the written statement for investigation and consideration. The Committee on Ministry shall report its findings to the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight for final action. The reading of the written statement in the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall be optional.

### **Step No. 7:**

The Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight shall inform the Yearly Meeting and the local Monthly Meeting involved of its action.

This recommendation was approved by the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight and directed forwarded to the Yearly Meeting.

Joseph Reece  
Mildred Raymond  
Clerks



